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THE
AMERICAN FARMER,


SPIRIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL JOURNALS OF THE DAY.

"O FORTUNATOS NIMIUM SUA SI BONA NORINT
"AGRICOLAS." Virg.

Vol. I.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY, 1846.

No. 7

REMOVAL.

The counting room of the "AMERICAN FARMER" is removed to No. 122 BALTIMORE STREET, 2d door west from the N. W. corner of North-st. and adjoining the new *Varian* building, (formerly occupied as the counting room of the *Baltimore Patriot*)—where the Publisher would be happy to receive the visits of his friends and patrons from the country,—and is prepared to furnish them with the various new publications, literary and agricultural, as they appear, having connected a Book and Stationery Store with his printing and publishing business.

A new prospectus of the "Farmer" has been issued, in which the publisher, in order the more extensively to circulate his journal, offers the following

TERMS:

100—The *Farmer* is published on the 1st of every month, at \$1 per Annum—each volume embraces upwards of 400 large 8vo pages—thus giving a vast amount of valuable reading matter, for a very small sum.

PREMIUMS FOR CLUBS:

125—Any person obtaining 5 subscribers, and remitting 85 free of postage, shall be entitled to a sixth copy, or any literary or agricultural works to the amount of \$1.

100—Any one obtaining 12 subscribers, and paying \$12 for the same, will be entitled to 3 copies extra, or any books to the amount of \$3.

95—For \$15, 16 copies of the *Farmer*, and \$3 worth of books, or a copy of either of the splendid literary \$3 Magazines for one year!

And in proportion for any larger number. All orders to be addressed, post paid, to

Samuel Sands,

Publisher American Farmer, No. 122 Baltimore street, 2d

door west of North street.

WORK FOR JANUARY.

We are gratified, in entering upon our duties at the commencement of the year, to be able to congratulate our farming brethren upon the bright prospects which present themselves, that they will be able to command good prices for the surplus products of their last year's crops. The failure of the corn crops in several of the states, the small crop of oats generally, throughout the country, and the failure of the grain crops in Europe, and of that in the regions of country bordering on the Baltic and Black seas, together with the disastrous failure of the potato crop in Ireland, are circumstances which must tend to keep up prices until the last year's crops of grain shall have been disposed of. But whether this appreciation in value, should stimulate

farmers to increased cropping, is a question that should be fully investigated before it be affirmatively responded to; as it is neither philosophic to expect, nor charitable to wish, that the results of the ensuing season, may be equally disastrous, either at home or abroad. The rapid *extension* of the cultivation of wheat in the west, should cause the growers of that grain in the Atlantic States, to act with caution, and rather aim to attain *quantity* by the *improvement* of the soil, than by the process of *broad-acres*—a process which tends to impoverishment with as unerring a certainty as does the sun in its daily course to the west.

With this allusion to crops and prices, we will remind our readers that the elements of successful farming consist in a few brief rules,—1: begin right—2, never delay until tomorrow that which can be done to-day—3, Keep your teams, implements, tools and gearing, in good order—4, be careful to have plenty of implements, and those of the best kind—5, feed the working animals well and regularly, and keep their hides clean—6, manure all that you cultivate, as well with nutritive manure, as with lime, marl or ashes, plough deeply and pulverize the soil thoroughly,—7, sow and plant good seeds,—8, be sure not to suffer the weeds to over-top or encumber the growing plants—9, preserve your fences in good order, and—10, personally see that your hands do not kill time.

Contenting ourselves with having laid down these general rules, which, if rigidly followed, we are sure will tend to the promotion of success, we will now take a bird's-eye view, and see what is to be done

ON THE FARM.

Winter Ploughing.—All stiff tenacious clays, intended for spring crops, should be ploughed either late in the fall, or during the open periods of the winter. But the breaking up of such lands, should never be undertaken, unless it be in that peculiar state between *moist* and *dry*, which enables the ploughman to turn it over in a state free from danger of its becoming mortar, a condition always consequent upon the ploughing of stiff clays when *wet*. If ploughed in this latter state, it will remain so

throughout the season, and of course prove profitless to all the purposes of cultivation. If, however, advantage be taken to plough when the soil is right, *neither wet nor dry, but moderately moist*, the effect of the action of the winter's alternations of *freezing and thawing* will be, to disintegrate the particles of clay, render it friable, lessen the labor of cultivation, excite the decomposition of vegetable matter, facilitate the formation of the silicate of potash, and greatly increase the quantity, and improve the quality of the crops which may be grown upon it.

Threshing and cleaning grain.—As the prices of grain are now remunerative, we would advise all to get all they have out, so as to be ready for market at any time that their interest may point it out as the proper one to sell at. For years past, the raising of grain has been an unprofitable concern, but now, when prices offer something like a just reward for labor bestowed, and interest involved, grain-growers cannot look too sharply, nor watch too closely, to seize upon the point of time when maximum prices are to be obtained; nor can they be too regardful of not being caught in the meshes of *speculators*—those *conscientious* gentry, who travel on the “wings of the wind” to make money out of the want of information of others, and thus to batten on ill gotten spoils.

Grain Fields.—At least twice a month, the grain fields should have all the *surface-drains* examined, and every *clod, stone or stick*, carefully removed, so that no impediment be left to prevent the free progress of the water, as nothing is more destructive to the plants of winter grain, than being flooded by water in winter or early spring. That it is one of the causes of what is called winter killing we have never entertained a doubt, and we are as clear of doubt, that it may be avoided by deep ploughing, laying dry, by surface drains, and by keeping those drains free from obstructions.

Fire-Wood.—We hope that you have already followed our oft repeated advice, and have now in your yard a sufficiency of wood to last you. If such should not be your situation, let us urge you by every consideration of comfort and humanity to accomplish that job without further delay.

Feeling and Fences.—Be sure to secure a full supply of fencing timber, and prepare it, so that you may have it ready to repair all breaches in your fences—and be as sure to avail yourself of the first convenient moment, when such work can be done, to have every pannel of fence on your farm or plantation thoroughly examined, and as thoroughly repaired.

Stables and Horses.—Keep your stables clean—sprinkle plaster, charcoal or marl over that part of the stalls where it can receive the liquid voidings of the horses, and absorb the ammonia which they contain. These agents, besides being absorbents, and as such, the economizers of much manure that would otherwise be lost, are sweeteners also, and in that respect would act so as to preserve the horses' eyes

from those inflammatory diseases which result from foul stables. Your horses should be provided with plenty of straw for bedding, the which, whenever it becomes wet and soiled, should be removed to the manure pile. The curry comb and whisp of straw must be daily plied—twice a week, a gill of salt or the same quantity of a mixture of equal parts of salt, lime and ashes should be regularly, at stated hours, three times a day attended to—and equal attention must be paid to giving them fresh water as often. To save your grain, it should be ground, by which process you may do with *one-third* less, and your horses will be equally hearty and strong.

Milch Cows.—As butter brings a fair price, you can afford now to feed your cows upon some nourishing grain slops. Corn ground in the cob makes a rich mess when scalded or boiled into slop, and is highly conducive to the encouragement of the formation of cream. See then, that your cows get a just allowance of slops, that they are warmly lodged, and get a proper allowance of hay, and water.

Working Oxen.—If you desire that these animals should be in good condition and able to perform the work which will be imposed upon them, allow them daily feeds of grain, and plenty of hay; have them well cleaned and provided with beds and warm sleeping apartments.

Stock generally.—Every thing of the kind should be protected from the inclemency of winter, by dry sheds or stables, be regularly fed and supplied with straw or leaves for bedding.

Breeding Sows and store pigs should be shielded from the wintry blasts by a good warm pen, which should be well supplied with bedding, which should be removed at least once a week. But while the comfort of their sleeping apartments are attended to, it must not be forgotten to feed them. Ashes and charcoal should be kept in a trough, where, as their appetite may indicate, they may take a dose to neutralize acids, and preserve the tone of their stomachs in their integrity.

Tools, Implements, Carts, Wagons and Gearing.—The careful husbandman will thoroughly examine every thing of the kind, and have the necessary repairs promptly made; he will be also equally careful to see that each and all of them be placed safely under cover, in order that they may be protected from the elements. His harness and gearing, he will of course, have well cleaned and rubbed with neat's foot oil and lampblack, and such as may not be in use, he will have carefully hung up.

Young Cattle.—These should be kept in a separate yard from the old ones. In a trough, under cover, there should at all times be kept, a mixture of lime, ashes and salt, in equal portions, to which they can have free access. As to their feed, though we are averse from stuffing them, we would certainly recommend that they be sufficiently well fed, to keep them from that state of hunger, which makes them fretful and dissatisfied. In a word, they should get enough

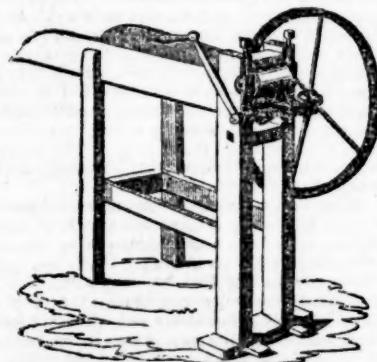
to eat to preserve them in good heart and growing condition.

Old Fields.—If you have any old fields that afford but indifferent pasture in summer, seize the first occasion when you can spare the time, this winter, in moist weather, to sow on every acre of it, a bushel of plaster, and we shall be greatly disappointed, if by the first of June next, it does not furnish a rich green carpet of white clover and other grasses.

Coal Ashes.—For most lands in grass, coal ashes make an excellent top dressing. A hundred bushels to the acre will sweeten the soil, encourage the growth of valuable grasses, and ultimately drive out the coarse ones.

As we have concluded our familiar talk upon the work of the farm, and as there is nothing that can be done in the *open* garden while the earth is locked up by hoar frost, we will merely say to those who may have *Gardens*, whose soils are stiff *clays*, that they should seize the occasion of every spell of open weather to have their beds spaded up to receive the benefit of that melioration, in the degree of friability, which results from the action of the frost.

A Compost for Sandy Land.—Take 25 or 30 bushels of *lime*, (or double that quantity of *marl*,) and mix it with 25 loads of *clay*, let it stand for a few weeks, then haul it out, spread it on an *acre* of ground evenly—that done, spread thereon 10 double cart loads of good strong stable or barn-yard manure, and plough the whole in, and your ground will produce better crops than if you had applied double or treble the quantity of stable or barn-yard manure alone.



HOVEY'S PATENT STRAW AND CORN STALK CUTTER.

The above cut represents the Straw Cutter of Mr. Hovey, which have drawn the highest premiums at the New York State Agricultural Fair, the Massachusetts State Fair, the Mechanics' State Fair at Boston, and at other Fairs—They are recommended as being capable of cutting more than twice as fast and with more ease than the common Cylinder Cutter, and are very durable, and less liable to get out of repair—They can be used by either hand or horse power. Prices, 15, 20, 25 and \$30—Mr. E. Whitman, Jr. is the agent for the sale of them.

ADDRESS OF HON. JOHN S. SELLMAN, DELIVERED BEFORE THE PRINCE GEORGE'S AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, AT ITS FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The request to deliver an address before the Prince George's County Agricultural Society, Mr. President, I regard not only as an evidence of kind feeling on the part of its managers, but as a very high compliment for which I beg leave most respectfully to tender them the homage of my sincere acknowledgment.

AGRICULTURE, sir, as defined by one of the most eminent lexicographers, is "the art of cultivating the ground." In its consequences and appliances it rises far above what may be termed an occupation. It not only calls into steady requisition every physical effort—but challenges in its successful development the severest mental analysis. This is the age of experiment—and of successful experiment. Commerce and Manufactures have gone ahead with wonderful rapidity. The improvement in navigation and the application of steam to machinery have wrought a complete and thorough revolution. Men are lost in wonder and admiration at the gigantic strides of both:—But both are dependent upon Agriculture for success. Then why should not the art of cultivating the ground, assume that high position—the highest under Heaven—which must be freely accorded to it by all, who give one moment's reflection to its natural, innate and most demonstrable importance.

In the Beginning, with the exception perhaps of that Garden Eastward in Eden, and planted by the Lord God, in which was the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil, this earth was a wilderness, placed under the dominion of man, with injunction to replenish and subdue it. The ground had been cursed for the sake of Adam's Transgression. It was destroyed by the flood on account of the corruption of man. But Noah found favor; the waters subsided; the Dove was sent forth, and returned with the Olive branch of peace in its mouth:—and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake,—and while the earth remaineth seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, the day and night shall not cease.

Thus has the earth been placed under our dominion, accompanied by the Divine and cheering promise to animate us in our efforts at its thorough and complete subjugation. A subjugation not to be effected by the sword amid the horrors of war; but by means healthful, pleasant and ensuring independence, happiness and wealth.

The art of cultivating the ground is not in its infancy. The rude systems of antiquity have yielded in a great degree to the progressive genius of modern times. Already do we find men meeting together to compare the results of their experiments—to take counsel with each other upon their advantageous application to the cultivation of the soil, and challenging in the spirit of a most commendable competition by public exhibitions, the public scrutiny into the productions of their industry, of their skilful care and management—thus opening a field where all may tread, and where if all cannot reap, they may at least glean, and where every one may receive a common benefit and a renewed stimulus to more successful exertion.

Every day, genius adds some new improvement which gives an impulse to the hand of labor, ameliorates toil, lessens the burthens of life, and adds to the general comfort and enjoyment of man. This is in

perfect harmony with the goodness and wisdom of Providence. By the introduction of mechanical aid, there is more time for repose, for quiet thought, for calm contemplation, for that Heavenly communion with the Spirit of the Universe, which it is the peculiar privilege of the honest, the successful and enlightened cultivator of the soil to indulge. It is impossible to contemplate the return of the seasons, the seed time and the harvest time, the germ, the blossom and the maturity, the genial warmth of the sun, and the blighting effect of the frost, without having forcibly and indelibly graven on the heart the great truth that there is a Power—an Almighty Power, which superintends the affairs of this world—which kindly ministers to the wants and comforts of man, and at the same time most fully illustrates the Divine truth, "that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die;"—a natural type of the resurrection of the body, and satisfying the mind of scepticism itself of the immortality of the soul.

The cultivator of the soil rests upon a firm foundation. His wants comparatively are few. His duty is to minister to the wants and demands of others. He is no longer regarded as a mere machine, as a serf and a villain. Kings and potentates are compelled to honor the farmer and the artisan, and to reign an interest, if they do not feel it, in their success and promotion. Hence, in England we see her jealous Queen and Royal consort as well as the nobility of both sexes, and gentry, all vieing with each other in doing honor to the Farmer and his productions. For the great truth has at last fastened upon the rulers of that wonderful island, that their splendid and mighty governmental fabric may be endangered and shaken to its very centre, if the yeomanry do not stretch forth their hands and sow the seed which will yield bread to stop the mouths of murmuring and hungered millions. No pen can describe the condition of a starving nation. We who have always been accustomed to the full enjoyment of the teeming productions of the New World can scarcely realize the fact. Egypt is not the only land, that has been visited with such calamity;—and perhaps it will depend in a great measure upon the enlightened energies and unceasing perseverance of that class whom I now address, that such things may not be again, and even here. From the enlightened condition of the world, and the consequent fact, that all nations are every day becoming more and more alive to the consideration that their true interests are to be found in cultivating peace with each other, instead of provoking the elements of war, I fondly trust that we have but little to fear from that scourge. What we most have to guard against is the uncertainty of the season—wet and drought. The best remedy against excessive wet and excessive drought is *rich land*, deeply and well cultivated; and I have never seen any land yet, which may not by means adapted to the purpose, be made rich. John Randolph said it made his heart ache to listen to the hollow sound of the wind, sighing through the mullets and broom sedge of the worn-out lands of Virginia. But John Taylor of Caroline, a more practical man than John of Roanoke, applied himself to the regeneration of those worn out lands, somewhat in the spirit of old Columella, when he said to his countrymen, the fertility of the soil is inexhaustible, but you Romans do not know where to look for it. John Taylor of Caroline looked deep, and he found it there.

When we consider the wants and necessities of man, and how dependant he is for food and raiment on the soil, the importance of the Agriculturist stands

confessed. The Manufacturer fashions for use the raw materials which the agriculturist and the laborer have produced from the earth, either by cultivating the soil, grazing its surface or diving into its bowels. Commerce either by the power of steam or on the wings of the wind, wafts them to every portion of the habitable globe. Agriculture is the trunk and roots, Commerce and Manufactures, the limbs of the great American tree—a tree that will always flourish, and spread its benign influence over millions of free people, if the same attention and nourishment are bestowed upon the roots, that are extended to the branches. It is only for agriculturists to feel their importance, as the first primary interest of their country and of the world, to command that attention due from the handmaids, Commerce and Manufactures;—an attention, founded upon absolute dependence, and which will tend to the mutual advantage of all.

We cannot shut our eyes to the vast extent of this country. Millions of acres yet unsubjugated,—but all in rapid progress to be brought under the dominion of the Plow. When we look from the Neuses to the Aroostook—from ocean to ocean, two thirds of it fertile, and nine tenths adapted to Agriculture, we may well exclaim, indeed this is the mighty land of the plow and the sickle! this is the mighty nation of agriculturists! What our destiny may be, perhaps is wrapped up in the womb of time. I believe that men as well as nations may in a great measure shape their own destiny. Then how much depends upon agriculturists themselves! Every one of them should bear in mind that he not only has a farm to cultivate and improve, but that he has the best form of government which the wit and ingenuity of man ever devised, to maintain and preserve. I feel no jealousy against the rapid rise and growth of cities. But I love to see the population of the country at least keep pace with them. For if our liberties are ever endangered, and the glorious structure of our government jeopardized, rest assured that such a calamity will have its rise in our overgrown cities, where corruption and degeneracy will have rooted out the country-loving, pure, patriotic, primitive ideas of our ancestry. A great trust is committed if not in whole, in great part, to the hands of American cultivators of the soil; and without intending in the least to derogate from the merits of others, or to flatter the class to whom I belong, I believe that that trust cannot be confided to better hands.

From the vast extent of our unoccupied and uncultivated territory it is competent for every American citizen to become a freeholder—to be identified as part and parcel of his country. Under the operation of our general land laws, any man with one hundred and twenty five dollars may become the owner of one hundred acres of fine fertile soil. The cheapness of land and the facility with which it can be obtained is the true reason of the wonderful and unprecedented increase of the population in the western and south western states of this union. I have for a long time thought, and reflection has forced the conviction on my mind, that large farms are detrimental to the improvement of the soil, and to the increase of the white population. Can it be the true policy of the State of Maryland, and particularly of this County, Anne Arundel, Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert, to drive the white population away, by adding acre to acre and field to field, in the possession of the same individual? It strikes me sir, that it is suicidal. Encouragement on the contrary should be given to all industrious young men who manifest a disposition to remain among their brethren and friends, by selling

or renting to them, on liberal terms, portions of overgrown estates, which in many cases are a real incumbrance to the owner, and frequently leads to bankruptcy and ruinous sacrifices. Had I my time to live over again with the dear bought experience that I have, I would not add an additional acre to my patrimonial estate. I would devote myself exclusively to its improvement. It is not the number of acres that gives dignity and consequence to the character of the agriculturist. It is the skill and judgment he displays in the cultivation of his crops and the improvement of the soil, his general information, his love of country, and the promptitude with which he meets every obligation.

Small farms are certainly more easily improved than large ones, and while the fertility of the soil is thereby increased, the remuneration, the direct nett gain is in the inverse ratio to its size, when compared with larger ones of equal quality. Not only is the direct nett gain greater, but the trouble and labor are proportionably less. Besides, a country is beautified and adorned by many farm houses, eligibly situated, and tastefully arranged. I am clearly of the opinion if a man have five hundred acres in one body, that his best policy is to do with it, as Solomon adjudged, when the child was claimed by two mothers—cut it in half—and if he cannot sell a moiety, or cultivate it advantageously to itself, he had better give it away. I have frequently contrasted in my own mind the condition of the man of manor, and his large and spacious mansion, with that of the small farmer and his neat and comfortable cottage—and not unfrequently have I found it to be the case, when the obligation of the former was not worth the paper on which it was written, the mere verbal promise of the latter would pass as current coin. This striking contrast does not arise from any lack of high *moral tone upon the part of him whose possessions are extensive*; but from the fact that the wants of the small farmer are less—his expenses are less, his business is more compact, he can readily and well attend to it himself, and has no necessity for agents. A vast proportion of the debts for which agriculturists are bound, arises from the purchase of *more* land. It is somewhat of a mania, I admit, among the good people of Maryland, which cannot be easily checked. It is an evil which only can be abated by the stern enforcements of contracts, and by the conviction that large possessions of land in the hands of the same person never benefit the country, and seldom the individual.

Over cropping is practiced almost universally. There are but few tillers of the soil, that do not spread their nets rather too wide. This disposition is productive of no single advantage; but many injurious consequences follow in its wake. It unsettles a man, frets him and keeps him uneasy and in a continued state of excitement. No one can plant or seed more, than he can secure well in good season, without deranging the whole of his establishment, and materially injuring the quality of what he does secure. Compare the farm or plantation of the over cropper, where every thing is pell mell, and helter skelter, with that of the considerate agriculturist, who has every thing in its proper place at the right time, whose crops are early in market, and the money for them in his pocket or safely invested. Compare the two together, side by side, and you will have all the difference between confusion and order.

It was once customary to laugh at and ridicule the experimental man, and there is much proneness towards it now. But experimental men have been of incalculable service. He should be encouraged and

observed. He is the most harmless being upon the face of the earth: if he fails—he alone sustains the injury, and should have our sympathy: if he succeeds, the benefit ensues not to himself alone, but becomes common property, and is so much added to the stock of agricultural knowledge. It is indeed so much capital to be used indiscriminately by every one. I knew a man once, indeed, I know him now, who *contrived* the experiment of improving arid sandy soil with peas. He was laughed at as a pea boy; but in a few years that same land, which was entirely unproductive and clothed with poverty grass, produced a thousand pounds of tobacco to the acre. The consequence of this experiment has been, that men came to the conclusion that there was some mettle in that particular description of soil, if it were rightly sought after—and the value of it per acre has since that time doubled. Indeed, thousands of instances could be adduced, showing how much we are indebted to experiment—but they are so familiar, so well understood, it would be wearisome to enumerate them.

It not only becomes the cultivator of the soil to profit by all experiments and experience, and put his land in complete order, so that it may produce a maximum quantity of the best quality; but as members of a community as far as in them lies, to have all things that tend to the public convenience, comfort and safety, well arranged upon a proper basis. A majority of agriculturists live some considerable distance from market or depots, without their produce is hauled for shipment or transportation. Has any one of them ever made the calculation of the wear and tear of teams occasioned by our most miserably bad county roads, and for which they are annually taxed? Good roads are not only necessary to the safety of the carriage of produce but to the safety of families even in the intercourse of neighbors among neighbors. Why is it that they are suffered to remain in the sad situation in which they are generally encountered? It must certainly arise from the want of energy, union and determination among the farmers and planters. It cannot be from the lack of patriotic impulse or public spirit. For, we who suffer all the disadvantages, the evils, the upsets, the stalling, &c., on our county roads, pay without a murmur a heavy assessment for the construction of roads and canals, which bring the produce of other States into direct competition with our own. It is a shame that we should build splendid avenues for the benefit of others, when we neglect to have decent and well constructed highways for our own safety and convenience.

Nothing adds more to the real, truly pleasurable enjoyment of life, than the social intercourse of neighbors, founded upon good fellowship, community of interest and sincere attachment. An unrestricted intercourse of this kind gives a zest to life itself, relieves the mind from moody contemplation, invigorates the body and prepares it for useful exercise and active labor. The interchange of thought, the comparison of crops and tillage, have a most happy tendency in stirring up a generous rivalry, which always leads to renewed exertions. Every neighborhood, by cultivating this laudable spirit, may become in fact a little agricultural society in itself, which will every year demonstrate its usefulness by the improvement that will be manifest in the field, the garden, the yard, the dairy and the dwelling. How important, then, is it for agriculturists to cultivate this intercourse, or at least to avoid all causes that may curtail its enjoyment, and render it distasteful. Experience has taught me that one of the most fruitful causes of dissension and angry feelings among those whose possessions are

contiguous, is bad fencing. Bad fencing is inexcusable. Divisional land marks should be clearly defined and well established; and good substantial fences, which will prevent all trespassing, should be erected, and always kept in good repair. Good fencing is not only necessary to the security of crops; but it has a wonderful effect in gentling and governing all kinds of stock. Stock that are not permitted to roam, are easily subjected to the wants and uses of man. Good fencing is also highly ornamental, and frequently maketh the mind easy and slumbers light.

It is the duty of agriculturists to avoid every thing which leads to pecuniary embarrassment. Nothing, perhaps, is more fatal to the peace and prosperity of a farmer and planter than anticipating the sales of his crops. We all know how apt, in the nature of things, we are to over-estimate their value. The delusive and unsettled state of the markets, the tricks of trade, the buyer constituting himself sole judge of the value of produce, and fixing the price, all conspire to render extremely unsafe all estimates founded, six or twelve months in advance. It should be, therefore, with extreme caution, and under the pressure of an overweening necessity, that the agriculturist should ever resort to this delusive, but most injurious practice. The lynx-eyed dealer always knows his victim, and is prepared to make the fatal leap when there is no possibility of escape. The common habit of drawing drafts upon agents to be discounted, ought to be discouraged, and if possible, entirely discontinued. If the agent does not possess a surplus capital, he must sell at maturity the produce on hand and consigned, for the purpose, regardless of the state of the market, and the pecuniary loss which may thereby be occasioned. I feel confident that if the tillers of the soil would reflect seriously upon the many ill consequences which flow from this custom, they would prepare themselves by rigid economy and retrenchment of all idle and useless extravagance, to rid themselves of a thraldom which to many is almost insupportable. The man who has the perfect command of all his resources and wields them as he pleases, is truly independent. All others are in a state of vas-salage.

We live in a climate, which, among its many other blessings, pronotes the growth and bounteous production of many articles adapted to consumption at home, and suitable for commerce abroad. Is it not the part of good management—of wisdom—to diversify our culture as to meet every possible contingency? Perhaps nothing, not even the wild spirit of speculation itself, has so great a tendency in producing the general bankruptcy of the south as the single idea which pervaded the mind of the mass of that region—and that single idea was cotton. Men thought of nothing but cotton, they planted nothing but cotton, they made nothing but cotton, and when the revolution came and prices fell, they had nothing but raw cotton. They had forgotten that bread and meat and raiment were essentials; and when they awoke from their delirium, they were both hungry and naked. Had due attention been paid by them to the cultivation of breadstuffs and the rearing of stock, the severe crisis might have passed comparatively easy, without the general collapse that followed. The diversity of culture affords a great relief to the mind. When from any unforeseen cause the crop of tobacco, for instance, fails, it is a pleasing consolation to view the field waving with the golden wheat or the fruitful and majestic maize, and in the prospective the verdant meadow is by no means displeasing. It is not only a relief to the mind—but sometimes a great alle-

viation to a very consumptive patient, with which, I believe, Mr. President, most of us are troubled—the pocket.

Nothing tends more to facilitate the operations of the farmer than good stock of all descriptions. It is as easy to have good stock as to have bad stock, and those who will limit the number and pay proper attention to them, will always have them good. A few hogs well fed and properly attended to, will with one-third of the expense, yield as much and better bacon than three times the number, which are turned out upon the commons, to seek a precarious existence by the mast, or now and then by squeezing into some neighboring cornfield. A good plough team will do double as much or more work and doubly as well in one day as a bad one, and with half the expense. The gentle and docile ox delights in flesh, and luxuriates on fine clover in summer, and sweet fodder in winter. When we consider that he serves us faithfully thro' life, and affords the most nourishing and healthy food after his labors are ended, and that even his hide, bones and hoofs are made to subserve the purposes of man, who can have the heart to stint his allowance or treat him with cruelty? But bear in mind that one yoke of good oxen is better by far than two of indifferent ones. No stock thrives more upon kindness than sheep, and there is none whose flesh is more delicate or healthier. But it is not only the flesh, but the fleece of this most necessary animal that should be regarded and improved. Much has been done by the introduction of high bred animals in the improvement of various kinds of stock; but I would advise no one entirely to discard the old stock that have become acclimated, and to which we are accustomed. I know several farmers who have improved their old stock by kindness and attention, and that stock will compare successfully with any that I have ever seen, whether we regard their capacity for the draught, the road or the dairy. No man should keep more stock than will convert his vegetable matter into manure. The notion that a man must keep stock enough to eat up in winter all the provision that he has laid by in summer and autumn, ought to be thoroughly extirpated. Mother Earth, although a great producer, is nevertheless a great consumer, and the more that she consumes, particularly of that article known as manure and concocted in the farm yard, the better will she produce. In this respect she is like the laborer: he cannot work well, unless he is fed well.

We have witnessed within a few years the most wonderful effects from the application of clover and plaster—the one acting directly upon the soil, the other fixing the ammonia,—and both together producing results in production and fertilization not dreamt of in all the philosophy of the ancients. By the application of these, barrenness, as if by magic, has been converted into fruitfulness itself. But all descriptions of soil are not equally benefitted by these artificial means. Some indeed do not acknowledge them at all; and other fertilizers have to be resorted to. It is highly important to know the component parts of soil in order to make the proper application. This can be correctly ascertained only by geological investigation and chemical analysis—information that is more and more desirable every day to the agriculturist, who brings to the aid of a willing hand—an enquiring mind. I have never failed to see good results from manure applied to land in any way, at any season, and in any quantity. So thoroughly am I convinced of its value, that I hold it most unwise to lose even a spoonful by neglect or negligence. On

the contrary every vegetable production should be converted into manure; (for every vegetable production can be, either by the common process of the barn yard and the stable, by compost heaps, or by the assistance of alkalies.) Every energy of the farmer should be aroused to its importance. It never fails to return the principal invested, with the interest superadded.

SYSTEM is absolutely necessary to the good government of every agricultural establishment. Without it nothing goes on as it ought to do. A due regard to it is the great secret of most men's advancement and prosperity. A disregard of it, the true reason why many fall through, and attribute to the poverty of the soil or its unkindness, their want of success. I once had a conversation with an old gentleman, a very successful agriculturist in all its departments, and admiring the fair appearance of his crops, I congratulated him upon his *luck*. He instantly and testily replied—that luck had nothing to do with it. It was management. Such was the fact—and his management was the result of system. It is not until a complete system is introduced, that agriculture rises to the dignity of a science. Why should not this complete system be introduced? It is easy if men will set themselves about it. It is nothing more nor less than the methodical arrangement of every thing that pertains to the farm and the concerns of a family. Reflection in the hour of leisure and upon the pillow, will reduce every thing into systematic order; and when this exercise of the mind is over, and the result well defined, we can say to our neighbor:

"If a better system's thine,
Impart it frankly—or make use of mine."

It is inconsistent with good agriculture, to promote the cultivation of good fruit. Those who are contiguous to market, will find it a valuable source of profit at all seasons—those more remote will realize its advantages in various ways. It is always refreshing and healthy. Fruit trees can be so arranged in many locations as to subserve the double purpose of shade and ornament. In the selection, pains should be taken to procure the best varieties, adapted to the climate. There is but little pleasure or profit in promoting the growth of those that are not. They become in fact like the barren fig tree—a useless encumbrance, and cumber the ground. Let no one be deterred from setting out the best and a sufficient quantity, by the consideration that he is too old, and may not live to realize their advantages. We have duties to perform not only to ourselves, but for those that are to come after us and fill our places in society. Besides the inestimable treasure of an unsullied character for honesty, integrity and uprightness, I know of no more pleasing reminiscence, than the simple evidences of well selected fruit-trees. There is not a breeze that blows, nor a shade that undulates that will not forcibly bring to the mind of a grateful offspring, those touching testimonials of prudent foresight and disinterested kindness which flow from parental love.

Early planting and seeding, nine years in ten, succeed best, and yield crops of better quality. The quality of an article rightfully regulates the market value. Superior articles seldom or ever sell for an inferior price. If ever the agriculturist feels perfectly certain of the value of the production of his skill and anxious toil, it is when he can challenge the severest scrutiny into its quality. In arranging his system the importance of early and thorough preparation should not be disregarded. Early crops generally avoid the diseases to which later ones are sub-

ject, and escape the ravages of the worm and other insects, which injure or destroy them. In regarding the destruction of wheat by the fly, and the mutilation of the tobacco plant by the worm, I have sometimes been cast down—particularly in regard to the fly—to think how very impotent is man, in not being able to extirpate really his greatest enemy, and apparently the most contemptible. But the want of success heretofore should only incite the experimental man to greater and more thorough efforts.

But it is not the farm alone that demands attention. There is another department over which it is the peculiar province of the fairer and better half of creation to preside. I mean the garden, the dairy, and the dwelling. It is here that woman can display all the gentleness and refinement of the sex, combined with the graces that adorn, and the good management that makes us feel, in the sincerity of our hearts, that there is indeed no place like home. From the hour that man became a living soul, it was not good for him to be alone, and a help mate for him was made, whom we daily recognize and honor in the character of the good wife. The specimens before us, evidencing so much taste and industry among the ladies, are pleasing proofs that they are alive to the importance of the situation they occupy, and that a spirit of refined competition, worthy of being generally diffused, animates them in the discharge of domestic duties and in the production of household manufactures, which add so much to the comfort and happiness of families, and enter so appropriately into the system of an enlightened economy, one of the firmest pillars on which the independence of the agriculturist rests. If the voice of one who has never flattered, but always honored the sex, can be of any avail, that voice shall be freely raised to cheer and animate them in the discharge of every duty, whether tending like ministering angels around the couch of sickness, or fulfilling the designs of Providence in the honored, the sacred character of mother and wife. The importance of the garden, the dairy, and of household manufactures, are not always duly appreciated. My advice, Mr. President, is to consign them over in fee simple to our wives and daughters.

Agriculturists should bear in mind, that nothing tends more to promote their *interest* and *credit* than industry. Interest is generally a self-moving principle, and excites the energies of men by its intrinsic, subtle and all pervading influence; but credit is a rare plant of slow growth, requiring the most delicate attention and tender care. When it is well rooted, properly established, and wisely used, it not only adds to the character and extends the usefulness of the agriculturist, but in a wonderful manner facilitates many of his operations. The industrious man, who always rises in time to greet the first appearance of the great luminary of day, who superintends all his business, sees that every one and every thing is in his or its right place; and meets every call upon him with promptitude, not only promotes his health, but has laid the foundation of a credit, which will of itself increase his wealth, by adding to his capital. Young beginners in particular should cherish credit; whether used or not, the possession of it will always be advantageous. Idleness has been truly characterized as the root of evil. Nothing but evil springs up in the footsteps of the lazy farmer. I am truly happy to say he is seldom met with—but when met with, he is a disgrace to his noble profession, an infected sheep in the flock, a drone in the hive, eating up the honey as fast as it is made, and leaving nothing but the comb, a poor dependence indeed for the winter of life, and

a poor incitement to laudable effort on the part of his children.

Agriculturists should read. Papers conducted in a proper spirit, and by those who combine practical with theoretical knowledge, and thoroughly understand the subject, are calculated to be of great assistance and should be generally diffused, and their contents well studied. Every cultivator of the soil should possess himself of one at least. The hour of recreation can then be profitably spent in contrasting the results of his own experience with writers upon the subject. The gentle collision of his own mind with that of others, will kindle a fire which will be certain to reflect additional light. Agricultural papers have infused a new spirit, and aroused the dormant powers of many. From their introduction, a new era in agriculture, may be dated. The *AMERICAN FARMER*, published in our own State, will be found a cheap publication, replete with useful information. It discusses all subjects appertaining to the art of cultivating the ground with a zeal and ability, indicative that not only the head but the heart of its conductors are devoted to the great cause. It is worthy the patronage of every farmer.

The paramount duty of the agriculturist is so to direct his energies as to elevate his class, and place himself firmly in the position to which he is entitled, and which, if he is wise, he will surely attain. This cannot be done, however, by the cultivation and improvement of the soil alone. The cultivation and improvement of the intellect are equally indispensable. How forcibly then ought the importance of good schools and general education to be impressed upon him, and how thoroughly should he dedicate every effort to their establishment, so that all may participate in the great blessing. In the establishment of such schools, care should be taken to introduce the study of chemistry as particularly connected with the science of agriculture. The public attention in Frederick county has been already aroused to its importance by the patriotic efforts of distinguished citizens there, who combine practical knowledge with scientific acquirements. They have set an example worthy of being followed by every farmer in the State; and I trust that their efforts may be crowned with complete success. No idea more fatal to the supremacy of the farmer ever possessed him than that of educating some one child in particular for what is denominated the learned professions. Mr. President, let agriculturists educate their children thoroughly, regardless of any such partial, unfair and unjust consideration. As agriculturists, let them educate their children for agriculturists. Let them not give bread to one and stones and serpents to the others. Let them bear in mind that education adorns and improves the cultivator of the soil, as much as it does the lawyer, the doctor or the divine. It is a false notion, long entertained, and unworthy the citizens of a free republic, that education was not necessary to the cultivator of the soil. Education and labor can be happily blended and go on harmoniously together. Education of a farmer's son, although he may have the diploma of the schools in his pocket, should never be considered as complete until he has been taught to plow. There is a time and season for all things. When we reflect that this is a free country, and that freedom can only be preserved by the pure light that is reflected by knowledge, can the cultivator of the soil hesitate a moment to put his shoulder to the wheel? If he loves his children, educate them; if he loves his country, educate them. It is a duty he owes to both children and country.

To you, Mr. President; and to each member of this Agricultural Society, I wish health, happiness, and independence.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ADDRESS

OF

COL. EDWARD COLSTON,

Delivered in Martinsburg on the 30th of October, 1845, before the "Berkley County Agricultural Society."

[Col. C. after alluding to the progress which has been made in Agriculture,—of the great advantages enjoyed by the farmers of Berkley, in having facilities to market—of the beds of limestone and slate within their reach—asks, "Why then are our lands not more in demand, and our agricultural interests more prosperous?"—he then proceeds:—]

But before considering these questions, let me briefly avert to another subject, the importance of which might well demand a whole address, and on which perhaps a high degree of agricultural improvement must mainly depend. Agriculture is not what it was 20 or even 10 years since. Science seemed then to treat it as a subject unworthy its association. To turn the glebe, to sow, to reap the produce and market it well, which the most unlearned could perform perhaps successfully, were all that was then thought necessary to the character of a Farmer. But of late agriculture has become a science. I do not mean to undervalue good practical farming, nor to say that it can only be successfully practised by the educated. God forbid it should be so. But the farmer who has education and intelligence, to understand the lights which science is now continually shedding upon agriculture, upon soils, manures, &c., and to adapt them judiciously to his own circumstances, must hereafter possess great, and continually increasing advantages over his uninformed neighbor, who, unless he has great aptitude at learning and promptness in adopting the improvements of others (which unfortunately ignorant people are not generally inclined to do) must, in the improvements of the day, soon lose his rank amongst successful farmers. The most essential improvement therefore which can take place amongst our agricultural population, is, a more decided attention than heretofore to the education of the rising generation. Neither can any man doubt, that our interests, are frequently and deeply affected for good or evil, by the legislation of the country. It would therefore be most decidedly to our advantage that every farmer should have the intelligence necessary to judge for himself in these matters, so, that we as a class might be enabled to act together intelligently, in support of our peculiar interests. I believe sincerely that if the agricultural were the most intelligent, as it is the most numerous class in society, it would add incalculably to the permanency, steadiness and prosperity of our political institutions. One small advance you can all speedily make in this matter. Every farmer should furnish himself at once, with one of the cheap and valuable agricultural publications of the day and encourage his children to read it. A single valuable receipt therein may frequently save him ten times its cost. If you do not this, at least select among the political papers, one, which devotes a portion of its columns regularly to agricultural subjects.

But why are our lands not more in demand and our agricultural interests more prosperous? One cause undoubtedly is, that we do not sufficiently ex-

timate the value of our investments in land and stock. I have frequently ventured the assertion which I shall endeavor to prove, that where the Farmer lives upon the land and cultivates it himself, no investment, to the amount of from 5 to 10,000 dollars (which I suppose to be about the average investment of those I now address) could be more profitable. Capitalists anxiously seek secure investments yielding 6 per cent. Manufacturing investments including some risk, and the personal attention and labor of the proprietor will not average more than 12 per cent., and mercantile investments with close attention, personal labour, and much risk, probably do not exceed that sum.—Now suppose a merchant with a capital of \$10,000 has an annual profit of \$1200. What economy and exactness would it require to pay his house rent and taxes, furnish fuel and servants, provide for his table and other necessities for the support of his family and education of his children? Yet most of you enjoy in a superior degree those comforts which it requires so large a portion of his profits to procure, and at the end of the year have perhaps some 5 or \$600 over, which is in fact all for which you give your farms credit.—You complain of the profits of farming because the merchant seems to handle more money than yourselves, without remembering that it is his capital, a large portion of which he is compelled every year to have in cash, to renew his stock, but which he can no more use for other purposes, than the Farmer could sell eight or ten acres of his land annually without ultimate ruin. He is obliged too continually to have money or its equivalent, to pay for those things which the farmer is constantly selling him, all of which gives him the apparent command of money far beyond his actual profits. Subsistence and then comforts, are the objects for which men labor, and if we enjoy these on our farms, we should at least estimate them, at what they would cost others in cash. Our failure to do this, is one reason why so many of us decry the gains of our own calling and discourage others from making investments in it. But a more serious evil, is, that believing the results of agricultural investments unprofitable, our farmers become unwilling to expend upon their farms, the capital absolutely necessary to improve them, and thus continually lessen their own profits, and diminish the value of their lands.

In this view of the subject I have taken no notice of the risks of the merchant, but have compared his successful career with that of the farmer. I was very much struck with a statement in Massachusetts by Mr. Dearborn of Boston, which I lament not being able now to recover. From a long acquaintance with that thriving city, an accurate knowledge of those who had been engaged in merchandise there, he stated as the result of his observation that a number which I cannot exactly remember, but exceeding ninety out of every hundred had failed. This astounding statement excited my curiosity, to know whether this fatality amongst merchants was peculiar to that city. I have looked back for forty years upon the county of Berkley and called in the knowledge of the oldest citizens to aid my own. Here, where one would suppose business as safe as in any part of the world, I find the following results: Of sixty-seven firms who have retired from business, three have died with independent fortunes, three or four more with very moderate means, with the circumstances of nine, I am unacquainted, and at least fifty have utterly failed. I have heard farmers say that

they wished to put their sons into merchandise, as an easier way of getting a living than by farming. These authentic statistics may teach them a lesson of wisdom, and make them prize more highly the security if not the profits of their vocation.

Another great discouragement to our agriculture, is the longing eye which many of our farmers are continually casting, towards the unexhausted virgin soil of the west. Not considering themselves permanently fixed here, they are unwilling to incur the labor and expense of improving their lands to the extent of its capacity, or even of sustaining them in their present condition. This has a paralyzing effect not only on themselves but on their neighbors, and thus injuriously affects the agricultural prosperity of our community. The travel of our people is almost exclusively to the west, or to the country between us and our several markets, which is greatly inferior to our own in fertility and improvement. Could they see more of the improved parts of Pennsylvania, New-York, and Connecticut, or know more of what has been effected in certain parts of our own State by marlimg, they would be better able to judge what might have been done on their own lands: then if they rightly estimated the advantages of our easy and cheap access to the best markets of our country, they would perhaps cease to look with an anxious eye to those new countries, the advantages of which are greatly over-estimated, and the disadvantages nearly overlooked. As I consider this as an important question to our agricultural interests, I shall be excused for considering it at some length. Lest I may hereafter forget it, however, I will first relate for your encouragement the success of my friend Mr. Edmund Ruffin, well known throughout Virginia for the benefit he has conferred on agriculture. About thirty years since he came into the possession of an exhausted James river estate, much the larger part of which too was naturally poor and unproductive. He too had a strong desire to sell out and remove to a fresher soil, but fortunately for himself and for the State, he did not succeed.—Knowing that the country abounded in marl, he commenced applying it to his land vigorously, much to the amusement and contempt of many of his *practical* neighbors, who predicted that the young theorist would soon be compelled to sell his land and negroes to pay for his experiments. He has lately purchased a fine estate on the Pamunkey, which he is subjecting to the same system of improvement, and left his James river farm under the care of his son. When he came to his estate, its average annual product for six years was a little upwards of 600 bushels of wheat. He informs me that for the three last years the average product of the same land was largely upwards of 4000 bushels.* Could he have done better think you, by going to the west? Have any of your acquaintances who have removed approached this improvement of their condition? We cannot expect such a wonderful improvement in our lands, because they had never been so greatly exhausted as Mr. Ruffin's, but his success, shews us, how much may be done by bringing to the subject a willing and determined spirit, directed by science. When we remember that the effect of improving land, is not

*It should be mentioned moreover, that Mr. Ruffin commenced marlimg in 1819, and completed the operation on his whole farm in 1827, since which, he has not put any more upon his land, so the crops of the three last years, of which I have given the average, are the results of marlimg now twenty years past.

only an increased product per acre with no additional expense of cultivation, but also to enable the farmer to cultivate a much more rapid succession of crops, we can hardly set limits to the increase of produce which might result. This can never be effected however whilst the farmer holds his plough with but one hand, and is constantly stretching the other, towards his *El Dorado* in the west.

You know that few men have had better opportunities than myself of knowing our great western States of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois; having spent several years in, and travelling through them. I am attached to the west, it is a fine country, and I thank God that we have such a resource against an overgrown population, yet I am convinced, if we do but justice to ourselves, we must always have a great advantage over our western brethren as agriculturists. I have frequently been consulted about removals to the west. If the person were poor but industrious and economical; if he had a large family to support by his labor, or were entirely untrammelled by either a family or property, I have never discouraged him. Whenever a person owning lands in this county has consulted me, I invariably replied, "I cannot advise you, you know your own situation best; if your associations here are good, if you are doing tolerably well in the world, I advise you by all means to remain, but if you are unfortunate in your associations, or in your business, and are determined to alter your habits with your residence, it is best to make the trial. It is no where more difficult to change habits, than amongst old associates, but no where will a stranger of irregular habits more certainly be relieved of his property, than in the Great West." I have known many of the poor and industrious, greatly improve their condition by removal; but of those who have long indulged themselves and families, in those comforts which most of our farmers enjoy at home, the larger portion, I would say 8 out of 10, have been miserably disappointed in their expectations and reduced in their circumstances by emigration.

Most of you whom I address have many acquaintances of both classes who have emigrated, and if you will candidly appeal to your own knowledge, I willingly submit the truth of the statement to that test. It is true, we frequently hear of Mr. such a one, who sold a farm of one or two hundred acres here a few years ago, who now has a fine farm of three or four hundred acres in the west, with stock and plenty about him, all of which sounds well. But when in the accidents of life which must happen, he has a few hundred dollars to raise, how often do we hear of his distress or ruin. When at his death his property is sold and divided amongst his children, how seldom does it bring as much as that he parted with here? Now the true way of estimating a man's wealth, is not by the number of acres he may possess, but by what it will bring him in per annum, or what it will sell for. There are some brilliant instances of success, which unfortunately glare on our fancies, whilst the unfortunate are forgotten; as the success of an adventurer in a lottery, blinds us to the thousands who have paid their money for nought.

If we will consider this subject closely, we will perceive that it must be so. The poor man, accustomed to work, and unaccustomed to those comforts which the usages of society have rendered necessities to most of you, removes to the west, purchases at government price, unoccupied land, commences his preparation for a crop of corn by putting up the roughest log cabin, and if he have a day to spare or

the necessities of his family require it, hires himself by the day to some of the older settlers at high wages paid in meal or grain; by these efforts he gets in a small crop of corn the first spring, which with meat procured without expense from the woods is sufficient for the subsistence of his family. He then gradually enlarges his farm and increases his stock, living very hard, but without credit, if he had any will to incur any debt. Every stroke of his axe adds to his wealth, until in a few years, he finds himself the proprietor of a farm, ample for the comfortable support of a numerous family. No one can doubt the improvement of this man's circumstances; of such is the most valuable part of western settlers composed.

On the other hand, a man of good property determines to remove. Then sacrifices commence to raise the means of settling in his new habitation and defraying the expenses of removal. When he arrives at his place of destination, two courses present themselves for his choice; he must either purchase improved lands and pay for them an additional price, approaching somewhat to the cost of improvement, or he too must go into the woods and get cheap lands to be improved by his labor. The first has many advantages, it saves many privations and affords some of the benefits of society; but it greatly lessens the advantages promised himself and family by the removal, by lessening the difference between the price of the land sold here and that purchased there. Under the most favorable circumstances, after great sacrifices of property here, and heavy expenses, he must lose one year of profitable labor, and the interest on his investments before they become profitable to him. During this time perhaps, he finds himself and family destitute of many comforts, which use has rendered necessary, and which can only be procured in those distant situations at a cost much greater than with us. At the end of five years, after having suffered much in his domestic enjoyments how often does it happen, that he finds himself possessed of a greater number of acres and perhaps a larger stock than he parted with here, but which would not sell for as much by fifty per cent.

But should he take the other course, and purchase in the woods, then great suffering and privation, can only be avoided by great expense, and that for a considerable time. His unclaimed farm cannot for years, afford those comforts which are to his family absolute necessities; in spite of all his resolutions to economy, they must to a certain extent be afforded; if he have no money, credit must be resorted to; debt gradually and insensibly envelopes him; and at the end of a few years, when he has cleared his farm at great labor and has the prospect of abundance, he finds himself involved in a debt, which perhaps requires four or five years more of labor to discharge.—These are not imaginary pictures; they are drawn from originals too often witnessed. I think if you add to all the privations, and sacrifices of property attendant on a removal, the loss of one, two or three years of profitable labor here, and consider the risk, of whether you will really improve your condition after all, many of you would see that the vigorous improvement of the fine lands you now possess would perhaps be a surer and certainly an easier way to independence than a removal to the west.

But I will not content myself with this view of the subject, which some may think rather fanciful than the real. I have frequently asserted when speaking with western men what I shall endeavor to prove by

figures, viz: that even allowing for the difference in the price of lands we can raise wheat here, at a greater profit than they can. I think I do not over calculate the value of good and improved lands situated as conveniently to the great markets of the west as we are to those of the East, when I place them at \$15 per acre. With regard to Cincinnati, I am sure this is under the estimate. Our own lands I will average at \$30, and suppose \$5 per acre, laid out in improvement, will bring them to \$35. I believe the product of our land so improved, would be fully as great as that of the west, for certainly I have never seen finer wheat grow in any part of the west than I have seen in the County of Berkley; but as I wish to present this subject in the fairest light, I will allow that the product of the western land would still be 25 per cent. greater than ours. Whilst an acre of western land therefore would produce 25 bushels, ours would produce but 20. The price of wheat at their neighborhood markets has not I think averaged more than 60 cents per bushel, whilst with us it has not for years been below 80 cents. Labor is higher there than here, and therefore I suppose the expense of farming about the same. There is a certain cost necessarily incurred in preparing a bushel of wheat for market, which I presume, is about the same in both situations, and the profits of the farmer can only be derived from what he receives over this sum. For illustration, I will say this last is 25 cents per bushel. The account then will stand thus:

The western farmer has 25 bushels per acre at 60 cents

The cost of raising and preparing for market at 25 cents

Interest on his land at \$15

\$15 00

7 15

Leaving him a balance of profit per acre of

7 85

The Berkley Farmer has 20 bushels at 80 cents

Cost preparing for market at 25 cts. 5 00

Interest on land at \$35

16 00

7 10

Leaving him on the acre a profit of

8 90

Thus showing that charging each acre with the interest on its value our crops are more valuable than theirs, a result that confirms what I have often asserted, that I have never seen any country so distant from markets as our own, where agriculture if well conducted is more profitable than with us. Farmers do not seem to remember, that raising the crop and preparing it for market is almost a fixed sum, and that profits can only be counted on what they receive over this sum.—For instance, estimating that cost at 25 cents, if the farmer sells his wheat at that price, only the precise sum it has cost him is replaced: if he sells at 50

*As I have seen some statements in the papers as to the weight of a bushel of wheat raised by some farmer in Pennsylvania, I would remark that the Pennsylvania bushel, and that generally used in Maryland is larger than the Virginia standard bushel by nearly three half pints. The greatest weight I have seen to which the Pennsylvania wheat reached was 69 1/2 lbs. to the bushel. My friend and neighbor, Mr. Wm. Pendleton, had a bushel of seed wheat, of his raising, by the Virginia standard measure, weighed accurately on the flour scales (patent balances) in the Honeywood mills, which weighed 68 1/2 lbs. strong draft.

cents, then there is only 25 cents to pay interest on capital, labor, &c. : now if there be a rise of price so that he gets 12 1/2 cents more per bushel, this operates not merely as a rise of 25 per cent. on the article, but being so much added to the fund from which his profits are derived, is equivalent to an addition of 50 per cent. to his gains. Whether this be effected by an actual rise in value, or by a diminution in the expense of putting the article into market, is not material, and illustrates our immense gain, by having the cost of transportation reduced.

The comparative profits of wheat farming at the East and at the West would in my estimation be more unfavorable to the west by taking cheaper lands at a greater distance from market, by which the expense of transportation is so greatly enhanced; nor have I considered the innumerable articles which our vicinity to market (if we rightly improved our advantages) would enable us to dispose of, which at no distant day must be a source of great profit to our farmers. Time would fail me were I to attempt more than to suggest the principal advantages of our position.

A great defect in our agricultural, and desideratum in our social system, is common to us with the whole South. I mean a want of variety in our products, and diversity in our social occupations. Situated as we are, between the extremes of heat and cold, one would suppose that besides the mere raising of grain, which in our extended country is almost certain to be so abundant in the market, as to reduce it to the lowest price at which it can be afforded, there are many other things to which we might profitably direct our attention. We can ascertain daily the state of the markets in Baltimore and the District, and the next day, throw anything into them for which there may be a demand. Surely our intelligent farmers might vary their system by occasional crops of other articles than grain, with great benefit to themselves. We occasionally see accounts from other places, of such enterprise rewarded by handsome profits. To this I would advise our executive committee to turn some portion of their attention, which might enable them occasionally to give some valuable hints to our people.

But the want of diversity in our employments, is an evil of sorcer magnitude.

Beyond the few professional men, needed by a plain, economical, temperate and healthy agricultural community, and the few merchants and mechanics, who can live by supplying the wants of such a people, we have no resource but farming. Which of you I now address, who has felt the cares of a large family of sons growing up around him, has not been anxious about a future occupation for them? How many sons of respectable parents amongst us, have emigrated, not because they desire to leave us, but for want of any appropriate, or profitable occupation here? I will not attempt to investigate the cause of this, but will describe a somewhat different state of things in another part of our confederacy. We will suppose a respectable farmer in Massachusetts not more wealthy than you. The system of common schools and cheap education affords to him the easy means of giving to his children that portion of instruction which fits them for all the ordinary walks of life. If in the course of education one of his sons manifests good talents, every privation necessary to complete his education is cheerfully endured. When he has graduated at one of the colleges near home, he ceases to be a charge on the family, and provides himself until he is prepared for

some profession, or business for which he is suited. The other children as they successively grow up, choose from among the different manufacturing or mechanical employments around them that business, best suited to their circumstances or inclinations. As they need it, to enable them to enter into business on their own account, some small but important aid is rendered, until at last when the old generation shall have passed away, the farm is left to some one or two of the sons who have been brought up to that employment, burthened it may be with legacies to the other children, which compels them to the same course of industry and economy which their fathers have practised before them. The same round takes place in the families which they may rear. Thus a healthful supply of laborers is constantly afforded to every occupation, professional or mechanical.

I will not describe a different state of things so frequently presented at home, nor investigate the causes which lead to it. But fellow-citizens I urge it upon you as a matter for serious reflection.—Some remedy might certainly be afforded by the introduction of manufactures amongst us, for which we have many advantages. The necessities of life are cheaper here than in New England, raw materials more abundant, water power is afforded by all our streams, and even the buildings erected, in our numerous and unprofitable mills, which might well be converted into manufacturing uses. Our climate is more temperate and more salubrious, labor easily had, and cheaper than in New England. Is the skill wanting? Operative skill may be imported, and as for the superintendence, I have seen it stated that seven out of ten superintendents of the factories at Lowell are not operatives, but Lawyers, who have distinguished themselves as business men, and only acquired sufficient knowledge of the business, to know when it is properly conducted. Is there not individual capital enough among us? Let it be supplied by joint stock companies, and if the first investment be not profitable, most of our farmers would be amply compensated for a small loss, by other advantages accruing from it. Are our wealthiest and best educated men opposed to entering into manufactures because they think it an occupation unworthy of them? Some of the best educated and most gentlemanly men in New England, who would be ornaments to any society, are engaged in them. It is time for us to cast away such idle prejudices against any honest employment of laborers, and every man should take rank in society not from his casual occupation, but from the higher claims of good manners, correct tastes, sound understanding and intelligence.

FARMER'S DIARY—COL. M'DONALD'S MODE OF CULTIVATION, &c.

Eufaula, Barbour Co. Illa. Nov. 29th, 1845.

To the Editor of the American Farmer :

DEAR SIR:—I have promised you that I would give the readers of your valuable Agricultural Journal some account of my farming operations, and although it is small, it is nevertheless interesting to me. As the year is now coming to a close, it is a proper time for each cultivator of the soil to look back over the business done, and if he has kept a journal in which every thing done on his farm is regularly entered, it will not be difficult for him to recur to his book, and by publishing such portions of his operations as he will be able to put in a letter and send to the publishers of our different agricultural papers and periodicals, others in different sections of our wide spread

country, adopting the same system, each farmer that avails himself of the advantage to say nothing of the pleasure of reading at least one of those important agricultural journals will be able to compare notes; he will be stimulated to renewed energy; and will be enabled to improve his former system in many particulars; for I must be here permitted to say, that in my opinion we have scarcely reached half way through the alphabet in point of agricultural science.

Having spoken of the importance of each farmer keeping a diary or book in which all his operations are regularly entered, I will state that I have for near twenty years adopted the plan of yearly keeping such a book—I find myself at this time at page 189 of my farming book for the present year.

The following is my plan:—I commence on the first day of January of each year with my entries, making myself Dr. to the entire capital employed on my farm, placing it at what I believe it would sell for, in cash at the time—I then at the end of each week during the year enter down the kind and amount of work done on the farm; this entry is often made daily, as I visit my farm, it being four miles from Eufaula. As I have long habituated myself to this plan, nothing is easier when I reach home than to make such suggestions that I think worthy a place in my journal, keeping an account of the seasons from year to year, together with the time of planting each description of crop—the stock also has a place in this book; the improvements, and the kind and quantity of manure made. Indeed every thing done is carefully noted down—when the crop is gathered, I give myself Cr. for all, and any thing made on the farm, coming as near as possible to the value of what is not sold at the close of the year. Now as to the advantage of such a book:—In the first place you are enabled to know what interest you are making on the capital invested on your farm; you are able to compare seasons and times of planting; manner of cultivating your farm from year to year, by which means you are enabled to adopt the best plan.

I now give you some notes taken from my agricultural book for the present year. My farm is poor pine land, containing 360 acres, divided by a large creek—one side of the creek is perfectly level, the other side extremely hilly, cut up by deep ravines on both sides of the creek.

The present crop is the seventh crop made on the place, having cut the first stick in the summer of 1838; the crop of 1839 being the first crop—we have 267 acres in cultivation the present year; it was arranged after the following plan:

Corn in cultivation,	120 acres.
Cotton "	80 "
Oats,	60 "
Rice, 3 acres, Potatoes 2, Garden 2,	7 "

267 acres.

I find on page 2 of the above work, that on the first day of January of the present year, we commenced our farming operations; the capital charged at the sum of \$8,550 00. By an examination of different pages, from 1 up to 46, we learn that the months of January and February were warm, and fine months for business—that we were employed in cleaning up the farm and breaking up the different fields with the ploughs, and hauling out manure and scattering it in the furrows, where we planted our cotton, which we did in January, and then bedded on the manure—our Corn was planted on the hilly land, on the horizontal system, the rows laid off six feet wide, the corn two feet apart, in the drill, and a row of

peas in the centre of each row of corn. I find at page 47, that we commenced planting corn on the 26th of February—at page 78, I find that we commenced planting Cotton on the 31st March—at page 86, I find that the corn planted on the 25th of February, was cut down by frost on the 5th of April—at page 97, I find that we were suffering greatly on the 24th of April for rain—at page 112, I find we had no rain from the 5th of April until the 11th of May. I have now given the readers of the Farmer, a sufficiency of my plan for them to see and judge of its value, or its importance. I must pass over much of my Journal, as I left home on an Agricultural tour on the 4th of June, and did not reach home until the 16th of September, during which time we scarcely had any rain through all this section of country. We gathered our Corn crop the last week in September, making 1300 bushels.

We make 35 bales of what is termed fancy cotton, it being a splendid article, we put it at \$40 per bale,

\$1,400 00

I find at page 187 that we had been 44 days hauling up the Blue Marl that abounds in this region of country, to prepare a compost manure for 1846, at \$2 per day,

88 00

At the same page I find we had been 24 days hauling up fine straw, at \$3 per day, (there being a greater number of hands engaged in hauling the straw, than in hauling the marl,) the straw and marl being mixed together with the treading of 40 head of cattle, at \$3,

72 00

We will be thirty days yet in hauling up marl and straw, at \$2.50

75 00

Other improvements on the farm, such as building houses, &c.

100 00

\$1,735 00

Thus my dear Sir, I have given you the above account of my small farm, and the manner of keeping my Farming Book or Diary, which you are at liberty to publish or throw under your table.

Yours, truly,

ALEXANDER McDONALD.

For the American Farmer.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF MEDLEY'S DISTRICT, MONTGOMERY CO., MD.

Montgomery Co., Poolsville, 12th Mo.

Few portions of the good old State of Maryland have suffered so much from bad cultivation as Montgomery Co. The early settlers seemed to have vied with each other in cutting its noble forests, and exhausting its once rich soil, by a series of impoverishing crops; thus entailing on their descendants large tracts of poor lands, and modes of agriculture as barren of profitable results as the lands are on which they are practised. It is not to be wondered at, that the generality of the lands in this county are in a poor state of cultivation, when we reflect on the course of treatment they have been subjected to since the period of their first settlement; indeed they are annually decreasing in the amount of their products—except, perhaps some tracts laying along the Potomac river; the wheat crop is at least less by $\frac{1}{4}$ on the same quantity of land than it was 15 years ago, though there are $\frac{1}{2}$ more plaster and clover sown now than then. The question then arises, to what cause is the decreasing produce of the soil attributable?—the only true answer is simply this: too strict adherence to the old mode of farming,

without paying any regard to modern improvement in that honorable art. Men may write, theorize and assign other reasons—the foregoing will in most cases be found as to the cause of the low state of cultivation. As long as the farmer cultivates large tracts without the application of manure, a judicious rotation of crops, or in a word, whilst he continues to draw from the soil every thing he can by cropping and return nothing, save an occasional year in clover, (which the stock manages to share) he may expect a natural decrease of fertility. This mode in nine cases out of ten is the one practised—and who can sum up the many evils entailed on the community by such a course of cultivation?—And if like causes produce like effects, what must be the ultimate fate of those possessing said lands? Their only alternative will be either to adopt a new course of cultivation, or emigrate to more fertile lands. Is it not something strange then, that with those startling facts placed before the farming community, so few are found, to lend their aid in adopting a different mode of cultivation? So strictly wedded are they to the modes of their fathers, that they consider any departure I suppose, a reflection on their good judgment. Let a political meeting take place, where some office-seeker holds forth in modern party slang to the *dear people*—let there be a few constables to be nominated, or a tacky horse race of 300 yards for half a gallon of grog—and you have crowds in attendance—all ready for action, disregarding either time or money—On the other hand call a meeting for the improvement of agriculture—the very basis of society—the wealth and honor of a nation—and you can scarcely command the attendance of a quorum. How degrading to the character of an agricultural community—yet it is nevertheless true. In all societies there are, however, those who generally perceive the errors of the mass, and who from time to time attempt the introduction of such principles of reform as would ultimately, if acted on, do away with existing evils. Such has, and continues to be the case here. A number of intelligent and enterprising farmers—perceiving the great benefit that would accrue to the community from the introduction of modern agriculture, formed on scientific principles, convened in Poolsville, Montgomery county, last August, and formed the "Agricultural Soc'y of Medley's District," by which name it is known. Its object I cannot better explain than by quoting the preamble of its constitution. "Whereas, Agriculture is reduced to a low and most deplorable condition in our county, and unless a different mode of cultivation be adopted, ruin and suffering must inevitably follow, particularly to those who are cultivating large tracts of poor land, without any regard to recent agricultural improvements, founded on scientific principles. To remedy this defective mode of culture and to diffuse a spirit of practical experiments deduced from the writings and experience of the most distinguished individuals on this subject, induces us to form and constitute ourselves into a society for the promotion of this object."—Such are the praiseworthy motives which the above named Society have in view, and judging from their mode of proceeding—respectability of numbers, as well as from the high standing which many of them have attained in agriculture, I have little doubt but this society will not only be lasting, but bestow lasting benefits on the community at large.—The society meets the third Saturday in every month—One of its members delivers an address at each meeting on any subject he may select; of course Agriculture or

something connected with it is always chosen—The speaker can either deliver his address orally or select some portion out of a book and read the same—by this means each member, however humble his attainments, can discharge that part of his duty; the speaker is always selected at the last meeting to address the next—this gives him sufficient time to prepare—Inclination as well as a laudable ambition urge him—of course he must read such books as treat on the subject selected—This begets a spirit of research, the opinions of different authors are consulted, compared, and deductions drawn, and accordingly advanced—this of itself is attended with many benefits—because from theory to practice the road is generally short. Each member pays one dollar annually—which money is judiciously expended in the purchase of Agricultural, Chemical and other books having for their object the improvement of the soil. Thus for the small sum of one dollar, a farmer can have the use of a library which, from the annual additions arising thereto, he could not procure for hundreds of dollars.

Each member is further required to try an agricultural experiment on his farm—something of the following nature—"Top dress on the 20th of April, upon $\frac{1}{4}$ Acre of wheat, 12 bushels of pulverized charcoal; on another $\frac{1}{4}$ acre, 10 bushels of the same mixed with one bushel of salt—compare with $\frac{1}{4}$ acre adjoining undressed." Each experimenter is requested to give a correct statement to the society of his experiment at the end of each year. Thus a number of experiments equaling that of the members will be made each season, all different;—all however, having for their object, the furtherance of Agriculture.

There is also a committee appointed by the society whose duty it is to visit the farm of each member of the society in spring and autumn, to make report of their relative condition, mode of culture, stock, farming-tools, &c. classing them according to merit. Nothing is left untried by this society calculated to attain the objects contemplated—it is to be hoped then, that the society will receive such encouragement from those they wish to benefit, as will convince them that their efforts are duly appreciated. Several excellent addresses, have already been delivered before the society, two of which are justly entitled to a more extended notice than I can well make in this hasty communication; one on manures, more particularly lime, the other on inorganic bodies, their effect on vegetation; the former by the president of the society. Dr. W. Brewer; the latter by William Matthews, Esq.; both of whom discharged the duties assigned them in a manner that evinced a correct knowledge of their respective subjects. In the selection of president, the society evinced great judgment in placing at their head, a man of his extensive and varied acquirements, great agricultural experience and an extensive knowledge of his kindred sciences—chemistry, mineralogy, &c. Those qualifications united with a zeal of furthering the great cause of farming, equalled by none in the district, duly qualify him for the honorable station, whose duties he so ably discharges.

What a source of pleasure would it not be to every good farmer of Maryland to learn of similar societies springing up in every election district; then indeed might we anticipate being relieved of that odium cast on us, by the miserable mode of cultivation which a great majority practice. Then might we expect that load of state tax to be removed from our

shoulders, which presses so heavily on all, but more particularly the farmer, crushing his best energies, filling his mind with future evils, or banishing from the residence of their fathers, hundreds incapable of longer enduring the oppression—an oppression created by representatives, and to remove which will require the best talents of the state, both in the cabinet and in the various departments of agriculture.

P.

MILD EW.

Very few seem to be aware of the nature of that substance called mildew. We copy an abstract of a lecture by Professor Lindley, of England, on the subject:

Mildew is often confounded with blight, honey dew, &c., but it is a distinct substance, and peculiar to peculiar tribes of plants. It generally appears on the leaves or stems, in the form of *red, white and black spots*, as a number of minute projections, or frosty incrustations, or a brownish powder, spreading more or less rapidly, till the plant is destroyed. Mildew fungi of different kinds, and these are divided into three classes: 1st, those which grow or lie on the surface of leaves: 2d, those which are formed in the interior of the stem or leaf, and produce when ripe; and 3d, those which only attack the roots. All these seldom appear but in Autumn.

The first of these fungi injure the plant by preventing its respiration. One of the most common of the fungi, which attack the common cabbage, is the *Cyndrosporium concentricum*, and they have the appearance of small white patches or specks of frosty incrustation. The mildew which attacks rose bushes, and many other flowering shrubs, is a kind of *Uredo*, so called, from *Ura*, to burn or scorch: for it gives to the plant attacked the appearance of being scorched. The fungus called *Acersporium, Monilioides*, resembles, when magnified, a string of beads, and consists of a number of globules which, when ripe, fall, take root, and form fresh strings, or neck-laces. Sometimes tufts of these appear, fixed to stalks, and are then called *Aspergillus*, from their fancied resemblance to the brushes used for sprinkling holy water. The superficial mildew which infects the onion, and is fatal to that plant, is called *Botrytis*, or bunch of grapes. The bean and pea have a superficial mildew (*Uredo Fabæ*) which spreads along their leaves like white roots curiously interlaced.

The second class of fungi which spring from the interior of the leaves and stems, are the most fatal. They appear in a sort of bag or case, supposed to be formed of the cuticle of the affected leaf. These attack the oak, pine, and other forest trees; the genus is the *acidium*. The *acidium pine*, found on pine trees has, when magnified, the appearance of a number of nine-pins. When ripe it emits a bright orange colored powder. A mildew of this kind attacks barley, and is very injurious. It is vulgarly called pepper brand. The *Urgo Segatum*, or smut, is destructive not only to barley, but to wheat and oats. It destroys the grain, which is converted into a kind of jelly, and attacks the leaves and stems. The *Puccinia graminis* which attacks corn, is formed in the interior of the stock, and, when ripe, burst forth into clusters, like bunches of grapes, of a dark brown color. The *ergot* on rye is a well known and destructive species of mildew. It grows out of a spike of grain, like a prolonged kernel; is long, horny, and cartilaginous. It originates in the centre

of the stem. It affects maize, and various species of grass.

The principal fungi of the third class are two, which attack the roots of plants, and both resemble truffles. One of these (*Rhizoctonia Crocorum*) attacks crocuses. It is called by the French *Lamort du safran*, and soon destroys the whole crop. The other fungus (*Periola tomentosa*) is found on the potato, lucerne, &c. It turns the roots to a purplish hue. They are both propagated by spawn or fibres, which cling round the roots. All these fungi propagate rapidly, requiring only twenty-four hours to come to maturity. One mushroom will propagate 250,000,000. Plants, Dr. L. says, are generally most affected by superficial fungi after a long drought. *Red Plants* are said to be more liable to mildew than any other. Mr. Bauer has found that steeping grains of corn in lime-water, will cure, or at least, prevent the spread of the internal mildew. There appears, however, as yet, to be no cure for mildew in the roots, but by forming a deep trench round the infected plants, and cutting off all communication between them and the rest of the field.

ECONOMICAL HINTS FOR THE SEASON.

The following hints, tho' written many years ago, contain suggestions well worthy of attention at the present moment,—they have, in the main, been found to be correct, and are worthy of the adoption by every one who is disposed to economise in his feeding during the present high prices of food for man and beast :

"Remedy for Scarcity."—As the present scarcity of grain produces serious distress among the poorer class of people; and what is almost as painful, much greater wants among the domestic animals, it becomes an object of great importance to diminish the consumption, and to increase the nutriment of that consumed. Proper attention to the subject most certainly will reduce the use of grain one half of the present quantity; and it behoves every man in good circumstances, to attend to it, in order that there may be more for market. If every one will seriously carry into operation the plan I have to propose for feeding, the price of grain will in a few days be so reduced, that their good effects will quickly be felt, the poor will be supplied on moderate terms; half-starved cows and horses will pass a comfortable winter; and some of the vile sharers, speculating in articles of the first necessity, will be disappointed in their project of fattening on the spoils of the needy.

A most important point is, to suffer no animal to eat grain in its natural state. It should all go through the hands of the miller and the cook. The life of the grain resists the action of the stomach so long, that it passes into the bowels before it is decomposed; and from thence, in like condition, is expelled. Three quarts of oats or corn, ground fine, will yield more nourishment than three gallons not ground. This is generally believed by wagoners, who feed their horses on rye meal, called chop. The grinding of oats and corn, is just as beneficial as that of rye. And, of as much importance as grinding, is boiling the meal with water, so as to make a thin mush. This mush, mixed up with hay or cut straw, will, in a day or two be preferred by the animal confined to it, to any other diet. One gallon of meal, added to two gallons of boiling water, in the manner

in which it is added to soups or mush when thickened, and if not boiled with hay or straw, which would be best, poured on it and stirred up, and given at night, will, with the aid of a little hay in the day, preserve any horse or cow in good order. The mixture, or mush, ought by all means to be boiled a few minutes, otherwise but little good will be done. This is confirmed by the following experiment, repeatedly made in England. A man, confined to a given quantity of raw materials, with abundance of water, would gradually decline in flesh; but with the same quantity of raw materials made into soup, would continue in good condition. The union of the water with the food, by boiling, is like that in vegetation, it becomes a component part, and is converted into nourishment for the body, if not chemically united. Whether this reasoning be convincing or not, matters but little, since those to whom it is not satisfactory may rely upon the fact, that boiling thin meal, before adding to it straw or hay, will make it go twice as far in the support of their stock. Surely, for such an advantage, so easily obtained, every one ought to get over the natural indolence and common aversion to deviate from old habits.

Another considerable saving well worth attention will be made by giving the animals all their meal food before dusk, and without hay during the night. By eating the meal food at night, their stomachs convert the whole of it into nourishment. That taken in the day, does very little good—more frequently injury than good. It operates on the stomach, instead of the stomach's operating on it, but it excites pain, cholic and other symptoms of inflammation. This can be well understood, from the experiment of an English physician; he gave a given quantity of the same food to two similar dogs, keeping the one quiet, the other in constant motion, for six hours, when both were killed. The stomach of the one at rest had digested all its contents; that of the other, had not produced any effect. The frequent repetition of this experiment has ended in its undisputed establishment. Hence, it is clear that the grain given in the day to animals in use, is of no benefit, as it passes through the stomach before rest enables the digestion to take place. Hence giving hay at night, really injures horses, by keeping them awake and moving. During the night, excepting with those animals nature made for subsisting in the dark, rest and sleep are indispensable; and more or less are they injured by every deviation from nature.

The practice of giving hay at night to horses, I am sure, was introduced by tavern keepers; and, if not kept up by their interests, would speedily be abandoned by every one who had sense enough to perceive the folly. In one or two hours during the day, horses can eat as much hay as will do them good. In confirmation of this I heard of the treatment, several travellers gave their horses and pursued during a journey of many hundred miles. They gave their horses only grain at night, and hay for an hour in a day. During the last thousand miles, they gained in flesh (though they travelled more expeditiously under this regimen) that which they lost in the beginning, under the customary treatment of giving grain in the day, and hay at night.

The last point I have to press, is, the necessity of keeping stock *sheltered*; that is, securing to them the benefit of their own warmth. It is a truth, indeed, that during their exposure to the irregularities of the season, they require twice the ordinary food, for their nourishment and stimulation, and are subject to ten times as many fatal disorders as otherwise

they would be. The master has taken them from a state where nature supplied their wants; and if he be not too much of a brute to feel for their hardships, he ought to be so much of a man of honor as to supply what his interests dictate, as a requital to the animal for its loss of what nature designed for its original.

If by this plan of grinding and boiling, the half of the grain be saved in the country, as most certainly it may, there will be but little occasion for pressing the extension of the principle to man, by advising eating mush instead of bread, and taking soup instead of meat.

THOMAS EWELL.

Georgetown, 3d Dec., 1816.

THE AMERICAN FARMER.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY, 1846.

Maryland Farmers' Club.

The next meeting of the Club will be held on SATURDAY, the 17th inst. at 11 o'clock, A. M. at the Office of the President, JOHN GLENN, Esq. in the basement of his dwelling in North CHARLES STREET.

Gentlemen disposed to join the Club are requested to signify their wishes to any of the members.

The Constitution and By-laws will be printed and ready for distribution at the next meeting. By order,

SAM'L SANDS, Rec. Sec.

THE FLOUR MARKET.—The last advices from Europe have caused a decline in breadstuffs, notwithstanding the accounts of the deficiency of the Wheat crop, and of the failure of that of the Potato, are confirmed. We shall have later advices in a few days, which may cause a rise again.

ADDRESS OF JOHN S. SELLMAN, Esq.—Having given this address a second perusal, for the purpose of making extracts from it, we found ourself at a loss to determine on a single sentence which we could, with propriety, omit. We have, consequently, given it entire, in the present number of our journal, and can assure the reader, let his location be where it will, that he cannot fail to realize pleasure and instruction from its perusal.

We have also transferred to our columns, a very large portion of the excellent Address of Col. COLSTON, before the Berkley Agricultural Society, and as it treats upon subjects of varied and deep interest to the agriculturists of this and the other old States of our confederacy, we claim for it an attentive perusal.

Being in a similar "fix," in re-reading the Address of Dr. MUSE, before the New Castle (Del.) Society, to that in which we found ourselves with Mr. Sellman's, we have concluded to present it entire in our next, the space occupied by Mr. S's and Col. Colston's, having precluded our presenting it in this number.

WORTHY OF IMITATION.—We have on several occasions noticed the zeal of Col. McDonald, of Alabama, in urging the Agricultural public to good works, in the improvement of their minds and their modes of culture, by the reading of agricultural works—and we have another instance of his kindness in the following notice which we copy from the Eufaula (Ala.) Democrat, the place of his residence:

TO FARMERS.—The subscriber will receive money and forward it for the following Agricultural works, viz.: The Southern Cultivator, The Southern Planter, The Tennessee Agriculturist, The American Farmer, The Albany Cultivator, The American Agriculturist. All of the above works are published at one dollar a year each, and are considered by the subscriber so valuable, that he takes them all.

ALEXANDER McDONALD.

Eufaula, Barbour Co., Dec. 8th, 1845.

A very interesting communication from the Col. will be found

on another page, on a subject which is peculiarly appropriate at the present time, the keeping of farm accounts; a subject which has been taken up by a master hand—by "Cincinnatus," another correspondent, whose papers have for several months past enriched our columns.

(3)—We refer the reader to the card of Professor DUCATEL, in our advertising column, and would be happy to render our aid in any way in our power, to our friends in the country, to further the object in view by the Professor.

AGRICULTURAL WORKS.—In our next, we will publish a list of agricultural works which will be on hand at this office, with the prices annexed, and would be happy to receive the orders of our friends from a distance.

GUANO FOR PEACH TREES.—A friend requests us to ask of any horticulturist who may have used guano on peach or other fruit trees, to publish in the *Farmer* a statement as to the quantity used, how applied, at what period of the year, and the result. As an answer to these queries will be very interesting to many who are preparing to plant out orchards, we shall feel much obliged to any of our correspondents who can give the desired information.

THE MARYLAND FARMERS' CLUB.

This young, though energetic institution is justly attracting the attention of farmers and planters from all parts of the state. Its meetings have been characterized by that zeal which imparts strength to any cause, and the more to one like that of agriculture.—The proceedings of the last meeting will be found in our pages of this month; but only those who are present at them, can properly appreciate the amount of information, and the pleasant associations which they impart.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF POOR LANDS.—The statement which we publish to day, relative to a field of wheat belonging to Judge KELL, and which was read before the *Maryland Farmers' Club*, at its last meeting, will be found full of encouragement to those who have poor lands; for the Judge, by the successful result of his experiment, has demonstrated beyond all cavil and doubt, that lands naturally poor, can be brought up to the very highest state of fertility. He has shown too, how great are the achievements of intelligence, when impelled by that ambition, which delights in rivalry only when its aim is public good.

We have before us a plat, made by Mr. Bouldin, surveyor, giving us the exact dimensions of the lot, and also the following statement of Mr. BEVANS, who had the superintendance of the farm:

Having at last harvest the care of Mr. KELL's place, near Baltimore, I had to cut (by mowing) and thrashed and delivered at Mr. ORNDORFF's mill, 209 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of wheat, leaving 5 or 6 bushels refuse wheat, which grew upon the lot between his house and the Turnpike road. I am fully satisfied there was at least a bushel per acre scattered out on the field.

JAMES L. BEVANS.

December, 1845.

CHRISTMAS.

Although this time cherished festival has past, and is now among the things that *were*—although its amusements will have been enjoyed,—and its incidents numbered with the by-gones, are our journal will have reached our patrons,—and although we cannot tender the compliments of the season in *anticipation* of the *advent*, yet we may indulge the hope—because it comes from the purest rivulet of our heart—that Christmas may have brought with it to the homesteads of each and all of our readers, those associations, those comforts, and those innocent pleasures, which, for nearly eighteen centuries and a half, have made its incoming alike the source of delight to the old and to the young—which have warmed generous hearts into *extacy*, inspired lofty minds with congenial thoughts, and given direction and relish to those social relations of neighborhoods, which bind up with the cement of friendship, the feelings of those whom God had destined to live in the bonds of good fellowship.

We have lived long enough to have seen, with emotions of regret, many of those customs, which we treasured in our youth, fall into disuse in this age of change and innovation—and candor forces us to confess, that we have yet to learn, that the heads and hearts of men have been improved by the change—or that the cause of either pure religion or sound morals have been thereby elevated in the scale of perfection; but we are very certain, that, in proportion to the ratio at which *hospitality* has receded, so have hollow-heartedness, insincerity and dissimulation advanced. In saying this we speak not in a spirit of querulousness, for as it is not our province, neither is it our disposition, to complain of our fellow man unnecessarily—much rather—could we conscientiously do so—would we bid him God speed in all his progressive movements, and cheer him onward—but as we cannot do this with a clean bosom—we may be permitted to salute our patrons with our best wishes for their health, happiness, and prosperity—and to add, that men and women are the more kindly and ingenuous, in those neighborhoods where the frank and honest hearted hospitality of the past century still flourishes in the fulness of its ancient integrity.

THE NEW YEAR.

In the opening of the new year, we tender the homage of our most sincere acknowledgements to our patrons, for the deep interest which they have taken in imparting such solid encouragement to our present enterprise, by increasing its subscription list to a degree far beyond our most sanguine expectations. That *interest*, so disinterestedly bestowed, besides being appreciated as a testimonial of the friendship borne towards us by the subscribers to our journal in its ancient form, is the more flattering to our ambition, because it assures us, that the *motive* which induced us to the change—the *wider spread* of agricultural knowledge—has been properly estimated by that class, for whose benefit we adventured upon the experiment.

But while we thus, in a spirit of gratitude, offer up our thanks to those who have so generously labored to advance our personal interests, and further the cause of husbandry, we would be permitted to conjure them, *not to "weary in well doing,"* but to continue in the good work they have so auspiciously begun, and thus far carried on with such beneficial results, as every additional name they may add, serves to increase the sphere of usefulness, and to disseminate the wider whatever profitable information our pages may contain. In this appeal, we desire to be candid, and, therefore, freely acknowledge, that, while we desire to enlarge the area of our circulation, in order that a spirit and propensity for *agricultural reading* may be the more extensively encouraged, we are not indifferent to those views which look to *self*—but as the *prosperity* of a work devoted to so important an art and science as that of agriculture, is intimately connected with the *cause* which it may advocate, and whose interest it is its object to promote, we feel assured, that the good sense and patriotism of our readers will relieve us from all imputation of selfishness, and merge in the more predominant motive—*public good*—whatever semblance our remarks may bear to a desire to promote our own individual views.

Our readers must be aware, that the toil of conducting a work like ours,—filled as it is with matter requiring time and judgment in preparation and selection, and embellished with costly *cuts*, is great, and the *expense* heavy,—and that that *expense* can only be met in the *multiplicity* of subscriptions, as from the *cheapness* of the publication—a *dollar a year*—a limited number would not cover the cost. And hence it is that we are again emboldened to trespass upon the same kindly feeling that has already been so efficiently at work in our behalf. From the very onset of our connection with the *American Farmer*, our best exertions have been given to render it worthy of patronage, and the *increase*, so opportunely given to our *list*, has served to make it quite a labor of love to us, to cater for those who have placed us under so many recent obligations of gratitude.

Having thus frankly addressed ourselves to the kind feelings of our esteemed patrons, we would be indulged with the request that each would place us under an additional obligation, by *procuring from among his neighbors, one or two more subscribers*. To accomplish this object, it is only necessary to begin the work—to make an effort, and he will as certainly succeed as that effect follows cause. As an additional inducement we would remark, that the *AMERICAN FARMER*, has been made the *organ of the Maryland Farmers' Club*, and that all the valuable papers which may be, from time to time, read and laid before that body, will be published in its pages.

In conclusion, we tender all with the compliments of the season—and wish them not only a happy *new year*, but the possession of happiness and prosperity throughout its continuance, and that each succeeding one, may come freighted to their homes with all the elements which constitute health, good fortune in

worldly affairs, and that peace of mind, which springs from a consciousness of a well spent life, and gives the rich assurance that one's spiritual welfare has been cared for.

BONE MANURE—ITS QUALITY AND MODE OF APPLICATION.

Bone manure, it is said acts most efficiently on sandy or light soils, though it will act efficaciously on all soils. Twenty bushels of bone dust mixed with 20 bushels of ashes is the proper quantity for an acre. This mixture or compost should be suffered to remain in piles about ten days or two weeks, when it will be fit to be sown,—care must be taken in sowing that it be spread evenly, when the other manure may be spread thereon and ploughed in. The bone dust furnishes phosphoric acid as well as an oily substance highly nutritious, while the ashes converts the silic into the silicate of potash, and thus prepares it to be taken up into the general circulation by the roots, where it is manipulated into the outer crust of plants.

An acre of ground which should receive 20 bushels of bone manure, 20 of ashes and 20 loads of stable or barn-yard manure, would remain in good tilth for seven years. An acre of land thus treated would bring good corn, wheat, barley or grass, and when the cost is considered, it should surely be looked upon as a cheap plan of manuring.

Improvement in the Art of Tanning.—For the benefit of those of our readers who are interested in Tanning, as well as those who are about to engage in the business, we subjoin a few remarks relative to "Howell's Patent Tanning Machine," which is now being generally introduced into use by that class of manufacturers. We had the opportunity of seeing a model of this machine, and think it admirably adapted for meeting and correcting all the difficulties attendant on the manufacture of leather which exist under the ordinary method.

By this machine there is a saving of seventy five per cent in time, and fifty per cent in labor and fixtures, and on no other plan can a person enter into the business at so little cost. By this improvement all kinds of hides and skins may be tanned not only so as to produce a superior article of leather, but with a great saving of time, labor and expense. The principle of the improvement is simple, and will be easily understood by any practical tanner. The machine consists of a wheel and vat, the circumference of the wheel being composed of slats, which may be removed at pleasure; upon these slats the skins are suspended by the middle. The wheel is made to revolve in and over the vat, and the skins are thus alternately immersed in the tanning liquor, and exposed to the atmosphere. The skins are prepared for tanning in the ordinary manner.

By this process, the tanning matter is rapidly and effectually combined with the skin, the leather is caused to fill well, and receives greater substance and pliability. This is not owing to the intervention of any new chemical agency, but upon the same principle as the ordinary manual operation of *handling*, its greater effect arising from the superior rapidity and constancy of operation. On a wheel of ten feet in diameter from 200 to 300 sides or skins may be suspended at a time.

Calf skins can be thoroughly tanned in one week, upper leather in two weeks, and sole leather in from 20 to 30 days. This invention has been fairly tested by some of the best tanners in the country, and in no case has it failed to give entire satisfaction, and the specimens of the leather which we have seen fully bear out the assertion.

The manufacture of leather is a more important branch of industry than many persons imagine—There are in the United

States upwards of eight thousand tanneries, in which, a capital of nearly sixteen millions of dollars is invested, employing more than twenty six thousand men, and manufacture from seven to eight million sides of sole and upper leather, if which could be manufactured at half the present cost of production is a consideration worthy the attention of those engaged in this branch of the arts. Mr. J. S. H. Bartlett, the proprietor of "Howell's Patent," for this and some of the Southern and South Western States is now in this city where any communications on the subject will reach him.

—We refer the reader to the communication on another page, relative to the Medley's District Agricultural Association.—The plans and arrangements of the Society are admirable, and worthy the especial attention of gentlemen who have it in contemplation to form similar associations in other districts.

"PREMIUM PLOUGH."

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

Sir:—I noticed in your last valuable paper, an advertisement under the above head, in which it is stated that at the late "agricultural fair" held at Prince George's county, the "Maryland Plough" received the *highest* premium "notwithstanding the array of the best Boston, New York and Maryland Ploughs, against which it had to contend."

The "array of Ploughs" alluded to, were all exhibited by Messrs. Sinclair & Co. and E. Whitman, none however were entered for premiums, except by Messrs. Sinclair & Co.; consequently the field was clear and open for them, without any competitor whatever—neither was there any trial of Ploughs at the fair.

Mr. Whitman had none other at the fair, than the Boston Centre Draught Plough, and which he learned from the Secretary, had previously taken the Society's premium, and therefore in accordance with the By-Laws could not again be offered for competition.

This I believe, Mr. Editor, is a simple and true statement of facts, and I submit it to an impartial public to judge, so far as the "Boston Plough" is concerned, how much of the aforesaid notice of "Premium Plough" is entitled to confidence.

BOSTON PLOUGH.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE, FROM 28TH NOV. TO 27TH DECEMBER.

Kept at Schellman Hall, near Sykesville, Carroll co. Md. Taken at 6 o'clock, a. m., 2 o'clock, noon, and at 6 o'clock, p.m.

Wind.	Temperature	Remarks.
28 NW NW NW	22 35 24	Clear
29 NW W W	10 31 23	Clear
30 W W W	23 30 25	Clear
1 E W W	31 39 35	Rain lin.wat. Sleet Snow Clod'y
2 NW W W	23 31 21	Clear
3 E W W	13 23 19	Clear, Snow, 3 inches, Cloudy
4 N NW N	21 35 28	Snow, 3 inches, Cloudy
5 W W W	22 23 19	Clear
6 H W W	13 25 15	Clear
7 SW SW W	10 28 20	Clear
8 SW E E	23 35 30	Snow, Cloudy, Foggy
9 W W SW	29 45 36	Clear
10 W W W	31 35 25	Clear
11 W W W	17 28 15	Clear
12 W W W	15 25 18	Cloudy, Clear
13 W SW S	6 28 26	Clear, Cloudy
14 NW NW NW	32 35 33	Sleet, Rain, 1 1-2 inch
15 W W NW	33 35 34	Clear, Cloudy
16 NW W W	23 35 32	Clear
17 SW SW S	23 40 36	Clear, Cloudy
18 SW S SW	33 36 35	Snow, Cloudy
19 SW W W	24 25 13	Clear
20 NW NW NW	10 19 13	Clear
21 NW NW W	7 19 14	Clear
22 W W SW	13 26 23	Cloudy
23 S S W	22 35 32	Clear
24 NE NE NE	23 27 27	Cloudy, Snow, 1 inch
25 W SW S	27 34 30	Cloudy,
26 NW W W	26 34 31	Cloudy
27 W W	13 33	Clear

Hottest day for 1845, was the 13th of July.
Coldest day for 1845, was the 21st of December.

Maryland Farmers' Club.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13, 1845.

The Club met pursuant to public notice—A letter was received from John Glenn, Esq., President, stating his inability in consequence of absence from the city, of meeting with the Club—on motion, Col. Jno. Mercer of Anne Arundel Co. was elected President Pro. tem.

The proceedings of last meeting having been read, the following named gentlemen were proposed and unanimously elected, viz:—

John Thompson Mason, of Washington Co. Md.; Dr. John C. Adams, of Baltimore; Anthony Kimmel, of Frederick Co.; Chancy Hoskyns, of Harford; Dr. Jacob Baer, of Frederick; Allen Bowie Davis, of Montgomery; Judge Chambers, of Kent; Judge Dorsey, of Anne Arundel; Judge Archer, of Harford; F. Finch, of Cecil; Com. Ballard, of Anne Arundel; Thos. Swan, of Baltimore; J. N. Keene, of Baltimore; John H. B. Latrobe, of Baltimore; A. P. Giles, of do.; Johns Hopkins, of do.; Henry Mankin, of do.; and Lieut. R. Perry, Cor. M., U. S. Navy.

The Club then proceeded to the election of a Treasurer, when A. P. Giles, Esq. was unanimously elected.

Daniel Bowly, Esq., Cor. Sec. read the following Circular, directed to be prepared at the last meeting, which was approved of, and directed to be circulated throughout the State.

CIRCULAR FROM THE MARYLAND FARMERS' CLUB.

SIR:

It can hardly be necessary to enter into any argument, in order to impress upon the Farmers of Maryland the importance of such an association. For some years past, the progress of improved and scientific cultivation has been visibly great among our people, and every day is opening new fields for still further and most material improvement. What was formerly but a matter of old routine—most frequently ill founded—has now grown to be the subject of intelligent observation and philosophical analysis—applied too, with eminent and increasing success to the two great objects of Agricultural Science, the increase of production, and the diminution of labor. How active soever may be individual effort, it must nevertheless, clearly be inefficient, comparatively, in the furtherance of interests, so complex and important. In all branches of human industry, combination has been found to be the main element of development and progress. What one cannot do, may be readily attained by the action of many. What the experience of one may be unable to solve, may be easily elucidated by the experience of others. What would remain unproductive, in the knowledge of the few, may be the source of enlarged and general benefit, when compared with the knowledge and aided by the suggestions of a large class.

The obviousness of these views renders it needless to dwell on them further, except to add, that Agriculture, of all the productive arts—from the comparative and almost necessary isolation of those who pursue it, and the real difficulty of their close union in experiment and investigation—stands most in need of a nucleus for common action. In some of the counties of this State, societies have been already organized with very great utility, and it must be clear that the benefits resulting from these neighborhood associations must follow, on a scale proportionally large, from the establishment and proper administration of a Central agricultural body. It will create many

and great facilities for communion, upon topics of common interest, and will supply the means and the opportunity for the diffusion of useful knowledge and discovery. It will not only contribute to the development of the State's resources or of individual wealth, but will do much for the generation of a feeling of brotherhood among its members, and the consolidation of that best basis of public morality and social conversation, an enlightened, independent, and improving rural community.

In this light the FARMERS' CLUB is recommended to the FARMERS of MARYLAND, with some confidence in their disposition to strengthen its hands and improve its usefulness, by a general and hearty co-operation.

JOHN GLENN, PRESIDENT.

DANIEL BOWLY, Cor. Secretary.

A copy of the proceedings of the Agricultural Society of New Castle Co. Del. was received from Dr. Muse, of Dorchester County.

A number of copies of Judge P. A. Rost's oration, delivered before the Agricultural and Mechanics Association of Louisiana, were presented to the Club for circulation, by Mr. Grant, of Baltimore.

A specimen of wheat raised by Mr. Pearson, near this city, was exhibited to the inspection of the Club, and distributed among the members—A sample of very beautiful Cotton, raised by Col. McDonald, of Barbour Co. Alabama, was presented by the Secretary—also an ear of Corn raised by I. Lewis Price, Esq. of Kent Co. with several smaller ears attached.

A churn propelled by machinery on a new principle, was presented by Mr. Charles F. Bruff, the inventor, for examination. The thanks of the Club were presented to the gentlemen who have presented specimens and documents.

On motion of Mr. *Bowly*, it was resolved, that the "American Farmer," published in this City, and the "Farmers' Library," in New York, be particularly recommended to the patronage of the farmers of Maryland.

Mr. *Tho. Swan* proposed as an amendment, that the "American Farmer" be adopted as the official organ of this Club, which was unanimously accepted.

Letters were received from Messrs. Chancy Hoskyns, of Harford, Anthony Kimmel, of Frederick, Dr. James C. Adams, of Baltimore, now at Cincinnati, Dr. Baer, of Frederick, and Aug. Shriver, of Carroll, approbatory of the objects of the formation of the Club.

On motion of Mr. *Swan*, the correspondence of the Club was directed to be placed at the disposal of the editor of the *American Farmer*.

An interesting conversation took place in regard to the management of Dairy Cows in winter, in which Messrs. Chas. B. Calvert, of Prince George's, Wm. Gilmor and Thos. Swan, of Baltimore, and Com. Ballard, of A. Arundel Co. took part.

The following paper, relative to the management and yield of a small field of wheat on the farm of Judge Kell, near this city, was read to the Club; whereupon an interesting conversation arose upon the subject of Wheat Culture, and the ability of our worn out soils to be again brought into the highest state of fertility by a judicious system of culture—in the course of which various interesting facts were stated by the President, Mr. *Bowly*, Com. Ballard, and others, of extraordinary yields of wheat in this State.

Sir:—I hand you for the encouragement of others, the following product of wheat, from a lot

at my place 2 or 3 miles from the City—It appears whilst growing and at harvesting attracted notice and enquiry. It was grown on a light and somewhat sandy ground, from which had been taken the previous year two heavy croppings of clover, and the third, also, good crop was plowed in—and seeded on in September, 2 bushels to the acre. The harvesting of it was retarded and rendered wasteful by the state of the weather, and ten days later than otherwise it might have been; such was the condition of the wheat that mowing was found necessary to save it. The lot had been for several years cultivated in potatoes and the coarser vegetables until *tired*, then in clever 2 years.

The wheat was called by millers, the improved Mediterranean.—There were 209½ bushels (the barn measure 205) from this lot sold at Mr. Orndorff's mill, leaving 5 or 6 bushels refuse wheat in the barn, and at least a bushel or more to the acre on the ground.

The lot has been measured by Mr. Boulden, the Surveyor and found to contain four acres and three quarters—producing upwards of 44 bushels per acre.

T. K.

Mr. Bowly moved that the following order be adopted for the regulation of the meetings of the Club: The proceedings of the last meeting to be read, after being called to order—that one hour be then devoted to some subject proposed at the last meeting—which being adopted, Mr. Bowly moved that the regular subject for discussion at the next meeting, be the disease, or whatever it may be, now making such havoc in the potato, throughout the world; that, if possible, its further spread in Maryland may be stayed—and, to this end, he further moved,

That in the meantime the resident Geologist and Analytical Chemist to the Club, Professor Ducatel, of Baltimore, and the Lecturing and Practical Agricultural Chemist to the Club, Professor Baer, near Sykesville, Md. be each requested to procure at least one pound of potatoes in this state of peculiar disease, and to select at least one pound each, of those in perfectly healthy condition, for analysis; that they each be authorized to conduct and complete a separate analysis, of both descriptions, furnish the particulars at the next meeting of the Club, and accompany the same with an opinion, in the abstract, as to whether it be an internal disease, and if so, what remedy may be applied; or whether it be microscopic animaleculæ, and if so, whether in the pupæ, or larvæ state, and what measures, in their opinions, should be adopted to prevent their propagation; (or if it be a parasitic superficial fungus.)

Also, that fifty dollars,—twelve dollars and a half for each separate analysis—or so much thereof as may be needed, be appropriated out of the funds of the Club, to defray the expense of said analyses; which was adopted by the Club.

On motion, the Recording Secretary was appointed, under the direction of the President, to procure a suitable room for the future meetings of the Club.

The thanks of the Club were then tendered to the President for the use of his office for its meetings—and also to Col. Mercer, for his services in presiding over its deliberations at the present meeting; after which, on motion, the Club adjourned.

By order,

SAMUEL SANDS, Rec. Sec.

DOES BUCKWHEAT IMPROVE THE SOIL?

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Some years since while I was a subscriber to the Yankee Farmer, I was occasionally struck with the remark, that BUCKWHEAT would improve the soil; in other words, that light, arenaceous lands in which the defect of a due cohesion among the constituent particles was obvious, while at the same time (as is usually the case with soils of this description) there is a superabundance of acid manifestly present in its texture, would be regenerated simply by sowing this grain, the only manure or stimulus required to secure this result being LIME.—Now I have tried this plan till I am confidently persuaded it is all whim and theory,—that Buckwheat is an exhausting crop, and furthermore that it takes *far more* from the soil than it returns to it, *unless you plough in the whole crop*. In this way, *with the time*, the action of which is durable and lasting, you may possibly, in *time*, effect some degree of improvement; but by sowing buckwheat, simply, *if the crop be harvested*, you are certain to effect the deterioration of the soil more rapidly than in any other way with which I am acquainted—the cultivation of FLAX not excepted.

Yours,

P. G.—s.

Remarks:—The amelioration of a poor soil through the agency above alluded to, depends upon many concurring circumstances, which, or most of which, our correspondent seems not to have taken into the estimate. It should ever be regarded as a fundamental and incontrovertible axiom in agriculture, that a crop growing and maturing its seed on the soil, necessarily diminishes its fertility. Even those plants denominated *aerial*, and which doubtless derive a large proportion of their nutriment from the atmosphere, draw largely upon the mineral resources of the soil. This fact is clearly demonstrated by the following experiment:

If we take a plant of buckwheat, including of course the entire structure, roots, haulm, leaves and seed, and dry it in an oven heated to the temperature of eighty-six degrees, Fahrenheit, we shall find that it will yield about four per cent. of ashes. These ashes submitted to the operation of the analytical chemist will be found to be composed of twenty-nine parts of potass, forty-five parts of lime and magnesia salts, and twenty-six parts of silica, or sand. Now it is an established principle in vegetable physiology that a soil to be fertile in the production of any given product, must contain the mineral matters found in the ashes of that product, whether it be root or grain. By the above experiment the reader will perceive that buckwheat, though ordinarily classed by practical farmers as a non-exhaustive, deprives the soil chiefly of its lime and magnesia salts.

These are valuable constituents, and are operative in some degree, either directly or collaterally, in the sustenance of a variety of crops; for in wheat we find that in one hundred parts there is not less than twelve per cent. of lime, and fifty one per cent. of silica or sand; so that in the grain of wheat, to say nothing of other constituents, we have two of the constituent elements of buckwheat, both of which are derived expressly from the soil. Our correspondent is right in his corollary respecting the “turning in” of this crop. On most soils no method of speedy improvement has been found more successful than this. We do not know as we have ever been brought acquainted with an experiment in which the result has not amply realized the expectations of the experimenter. On old fields, the productive energies of which have been reduced by injudicious cropping, its operations have been wonderful.—*Maine Cult.*

For the American Farmer.

TO THE YOUNG FARMERS OF MARYLAND,

Essay No. 6

ON PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE.

ACCOUNTS.

A few years since, the theme we have selected for the present essay, would have called forth many a query, as to what necessary, or even possible connection, it had with practical agriculture: we feel sure no such question will now be raised; although we think it proper to preface the simple plan of book-keeping we would recommend, with a few apposite remarks, in illustration of the importance of the subject in the abstract, to farming, alike with every other industrial pursuit, by which man gains a livelihood; without, however, entering, at present, into its legal uses, in cases of litigation.

The merchant, whose transactions extend to remote regions, finds it impossible to commit a tithe of them to his memory, however retentive from practice, but resorts at the earliest convenience to his record books—his *cash* transactions, contrary to popular error, demanding above all others, his most speedy attention.

The mechanic finds it necessary to keep his memorandum book; the tradesman his accounts—and the retailer his blotter; without which, each one of them would be at a loss to know, at any given period, whether he were solvent or not. The lawyer perhaps, is exempt from the practice of any general rule, and is therefore, *ipso facto*, an exception to prove it. He usually depending on his *wits*; at the *end* of which even he often is, unless assisted by recorded precedent and printed digest.

The absence of all order and system in this matter, even where some primitive attempt may have been made to adjust accounts, may probably account for the too prevalent fact of farmers being actually insolvent, but who are yet laboring on, under an accumulating interest account; which, if resolved into principle, taking six per cent for the divisor, would discover to him the alarming facts, that he is laboring for others; living on his creditor's property, and starting positive beggary in the face.

Even if his attention to accounts would not delay, or prevent this too frequent result, of creating mortgages and liens on landed property; he would be prepared for the worst; would have time to look out for some other means of livelihood; or might often, by surrendering a moiety of his acres, at once redeem the residue, and possibly, the most valuable portion of his estate, from all incumbrances.

It is not our purpose to enter into the subject of interest accounts, either simple, as in cases of ordinary debt; or compound, as an accommodation and mortgage loans; at least, not in this paper; but we cannot forbear strengthening our last proposition, by giving the result of an investment, which lately, accidentally, came to our knowledge—if fifteen thousand dollars, which were invested some “sixty years since,” in fifteen acres of suburban property, had then been loaned at compound interest, on bond and mortgage, they would now have amounted to some hundred and twenty thousand dollars; whereas, the case stands thus. The property has not enhanced, and it has probably required its original cost to pay taxes; (60 years at 1 5-8 per cent.) and allowing it to have kept itself out of debt, an actual loss of one hundred and thirty five thousand dollars, has accrued to the owner—How many almost parallel instances might be found, were

the out-lands, or uncultivated wastes, within our own state, charged with their original cost and interest to date! The fact is a startling one, surely; but it reveals the absolute necessity of holding no property voluntarily, that does not pay something; and the only way to ascertain this fact, is by the strictest attention to accounts; charging each enclosure or particular description of property, with its original cost, interest and taxes; and crediting it with its *nett* yield, that is, if it be arable, with the produce after deducting the cost of labor, manure and fencing; if it be forest, the *nett* proceeds of sales, after deducting hauling, cutting and sawing.

This position being self-evident, another class of accounts springs out of such a system. Labor must be credited with its share, and charged with its cost to offset that; which cost, under the head of “charges account,” must be in turn *credited* by “Loss & Profit,” for its balance against the farm—But we will explain presently, after a few essential preliminaries.

Each crop or species of produce, should be got ready for market or home consumption, as the case may be, so soon after it has been saved as practicable; should be duly measured, or weighed; garnered; housed or earthed; and the quantity *ascertained* to a bushel or pound. The farmer or planter can then *know*, not *guess*, how much stock he can winter; and, by keeping the run of the market, whether it be desirable to hold on or sell; whether to convert corn into pork, and hay into beef; or feed low, and sell as corn and hay. In addition to these obvious advantages, a vast saving would result from the shortened time of exposure to the *peccadilloes* of servants and waste from vermin, incident to delay and neglect—above all, *estimates*—a word which has ruined its millions, and is yet involving its thousands—estimates would be avoided, and *facts* would instead obtain.

This subject suggested itself to our mind, while reading an abstract, in the Farmer's Library, of a treatise on agricultural book-keeping; which struck us as being at the same time both incomplete and complicate, but not having examined the work as a whole, we neither design hazarding a critical opinion, nor offering a substitute.

Of but one account will we take note—and that is Profit and Loss. There may possibly be some typographical error, but if not, the author is either ignorant of book-keeping, or has wantonly neglected an important fact—He makes Profit and Loss *debitor* to “all receipts and gains,” which is incorrect; as well as *creditor* for “all losses and expenses”—The *reverse*, one need scarcely say, is the fact, as every one knows who has a “bad debt” due him, and at last *credits* the account by profit and loss; profit and loss being thus charged or debited to a *loss*, to balance a personal account. Nor indeed should this account be charged or debited to *all expenses*. Charges, or expense account, which is synonymous, being charged with all outlays for *food, clothing, implements, and other tangible, but perishable articles* (not with *labor*, which is its own exponent) should only so far be carried to Profit and Loss; as actual *depreciation by wear and tear, consumption or other actual loss*, has accrued during the current year, or other regular balancing period—which loss will be discovered on taking account of stock.

Loss and Profit is the proper heading for this account, however, as *loss*, shown above, is invariably a *debit*, and *profit* a *credit* account—therefore the former should occupy the Dr. and the latter Cr. side of the ledger,—which will be seen, as we proceed to explain this account in a future paper.

True, we were not born or bred "in one of the largest" books—as a distinguished pomological writer arrogates to himself, in respect to his "garden"—albeit our name and nativity are inscribed in one—but we certainly claim to be "at home" in book-keeping. Therefore, whatever we advance in evidence of the fact, we confidently submit to critical analysis; while we confess at the same time, our modesty shrinks from the title of "author of a treatise on Book-keeping, on a small scale."

The season being peculiarly adapted for opening a set of books and commencing a system of accounts, the first thing to be done is to take an "account of stock"—not *farm stock* literally, as we generally understand the term; but of everything connected with the estate—first, its cost, if purchased; or its *present* cash value, if inherited the number of horses, head; of cattle, &c.; quantity of corn or other grain; manure, tools, implements, and in fine, of every thing worth a farthing on it.

Having completed this inventory, and checked each item off, as correct; get a blank book ruled, or rule it, in the following manner: mark it on the back "Day Book," and head it with the name of your place, or county, and date.—Thus for example:

Baltimore County, January 1st, 1846.

.				

1st Rule—*Every debit must have its corresponding, or balancing credit.*

EXAMPLE.—You have sent to town one cord of wood to John Brown at a certain price, in part payment of a load of ashes from him, at a given price, in a two horse cart—making, say, but the one load per day. This will be your entry in the day book:

Baltimore County, (Thursday) January 1st, 1846.

1	Jno. Brown. Dr. To Sundries, Cr.			
	For 1 eord wood, at \$4.00.			
	To wood acc. 1 cord w. less exp.	3 00		
	" labor acc. cutting do. 1/2 carter			
	wages,	50		
	" horse acc. hauling do. with 2			
	horses 1/2 day,	50	4.00	
	"			
	Manure acc. Dr. To Sundries, Cr.			
1	To John Brown, for 50 bushels			
	fresh ashes at 10 cts.	5.00		
	" labor acc. Robert, half day's			
	wages 50cts.	25		
	" horse acc., 2 horses hauling 1			
	day, at 50cts per day each,	50	5.75	

Now we all know, that a cord of wood standing, or growing, is not worth as much as a cord cut and hauled; nor 50 bushels of ashes in town, as much as the same quantity hauled on the place, by just the differences of the cost of labor and hauling—hence the necessity of charging these items to the wood and manure (ashes) accounts.

It will also be observed, there is a difference between the amount charged, and that credited to John Brown, of one dollar; to adjust which we will proceed to open the "Cash Book,"—which rule across both pages, and head thus:

Dr.	Cash, for January, 1846.	Cr.
	1846 By J-Brown	
	Jal p'd him balance on as- hes per bill 1	100

Cash being *Credited by John Brown; John Brown becomes indebted, or debited to cash—for RULE 2d—whatever receives is debited and whatever pays is credited;* which will be explained by an example of posting—or transferring the substance, (not the particulars) under general heads, to the ledger, from the Day and Cash Books.

NOTE:—The word *sundries* merely expresses *several*, and is not itself an account.

The Ledger should be ruled thus: and if large enough, both the debit and credit side should be on one page—as

Dr.	John Brown.	Cr.
1846		
Jal 1 To sundries 1 400	1846	By Manure
" " Cash, 2 100		acc't 1 500
	500	500

The narrow space before the amounts, with 1, 2, and 1 in, is for the *folio*, or *page* of the day or cash book—so in the cash book and the margin in the day book, is for the *Ledger page*. The marginal, or left hand numbers in the latter, being indicative of Dr. and the inner, or right ones, of Cr. items.

It will be seen too that now John Brown's account has been *posted*, it is *even*, or *balances*, and is therefore *closed*, so far as this particular transaction is concerned: not so, however, the other accounts, which with this one opened—but as we intended these three gradations, as an example to explain the progress of a single entry, we will pass over the others as immaterial at present, and introduce them again, after opening regularly, the set of books.

SUPPOSED INVENTORY.

Inventory of Stock on hand, January 1, 1846.		
200 acres of arable land and improvements		
at \$100,		\$20,000 00
50 " wood "	at \$50,	2,500 00
	Land at cash value,	\$22,500 00
4 horses worth \$50 cash each,	200	00
12 cows "	120	00
6 hd pigs "	24	00
100 " sheep "	200	00
Lot Poultry worth		25 00

	Cash value of Live Stock,	569 00
4 plows, 2 harrows, 1 cultivator,	60	00
1 roller, at 6, 10, 4, \$12 each.	60	00
Lot tools, \$10, implements \$20,	30	00
1, 2 horse power, cost \$100, worth 75 00		
1 thresher \$30, 1 straw cutter \$50	80	00
1 corn & cob crusher, \$25, 1 shell-		
er, \$15,	40	00

	Cash value of Implements, &c.	285 00
Lot manure, 200 loads at 50 cts	100	00
" fodder and straw 25 tons at \$10	250	00
" hay 50 tons at \$20,	1000	00
" wheat, 1000 bushels, \$11	1250	00
" tobacco, 50,000 lbs. at 3 cts.	1500	00
" corn 200 lbs. at \$3,	600	00

	Cash value of produce on hand,	4,700 00
Total cash value of your assets, on hand,		

namely you, for novelty's sake, J. Smith, \$28,054 00

Now these items, being yours, should appear to your credit, *somewhere*,—where, we will proceed to explain; and how they should be entered, so as to preserve their distinctness.

[DAY BOOK.]

Baltimore County, Thursday, January 1, 1846

(page 1)

1	SUNDRIES, Dr.	To JOHN SMITH,		
3	As per Inventory of stock on hand hand, taken this day, viz. Land account, for 200 acres and improvements of cleared land worth \$100,			
	50 do. woodland, \$50,	2,500	22,500	00
4	Horse acc't. 4 horses, at \$50 each,		200	00
5	Cow " 12 cows " 10 "		120	00
6	Hog " 6 pigs " 4 "		24	00
7	Sheep " 100 sheep " 2 "		200	00
8	Poultry " 100 h'd poultry, at 25 cents each,		25	00
9	Charges acc't, sundry tools and implements, as per inventory, val'd		285	00
10	Manure acc't, 200 loads manure, to cost of producing it, 50cts. pr load		100	00
11	Grain acc. fodder & straw off the corn & wheat, 25 tons at \$10, 250 00 1000 bushels wheat at \$1,	1,250 00	2,100	00
	200 bbls. corn in ear, \$3,	600 00		
12	Hay acc't, 50 tons hay, at \$2,		1,000	00
13	Tobacco, 50,000 lbs. tobacco, at 3 cts,		1,500	00
	"			
	John Brown, Dr.	To Sundries,—		
16	For 1 cord of wood at \$4.			
14	To wood acc't, 1 cord wood, less charges,		3	00
15	" labor acc't, cutting do. and $\frac{1}{2}$ day's labor,		50	
4	" horse acc't, hauling do. and $\frac{1}{2}$ " 2 horses,		50	
				\$4 00
	Manure account, Dr.	To Sundries,		
10	For 50 bushels ashes at 10cts. \$5			
16	To John Brown, for ashes,		5	00
15	" Labor account, for $\frac{1}{2}$ day at \$50 cts.		25	
4	" Horse account, " hauling $\frac{1}{2}$ day 2 horses,		50	
				\$5 75

We have now entered up all these items under their proper heads; and have also brought in, under the same date, our little daily transactions, as examples, and which we now mean to carry out.

(page 1.)

[CASH BOOK.]

(page 2.)

Dr.		Cash for January, 1846.				Cr.	
1846.							
Jan.	1	To John Smith, balance cash on hand, this date,	1	100 00	1	By John Brown, paid him balance on ashes, pr bill	16
						By labor, paid Rob't, carter, 1 day's wages,	15
						By horse acc't, feed for 2 horses, 25 cts	4
							2 00
						By balance cash,	98 00
				100 00			100 00
				98 00			
Jan.	2	To balance,					

We have supposed John Smith to have \$100 on hand, 1st of January, for which, of course, we credit him by cash account; have charged the items of labor and feed, to show the *action* of these accounts, and have *balanced* cash at the close of one day, to post up, to show the manner; but it will be readily perceived that labor is paid for at the end of the week

or month usually; and horse feed, if bought, in larger quantities; nor is cash account, usually balanced oftener than once a week in mercantile houses. Once a month on a farm, is often enough.

We will now post, or transcribe, these several entries into, and explain the use of the ledger.

(Page 1.)

[L E D G E R .]

Dr.		JOHN SMITH,				Cr.	
1846.			1846.				
Jan.	1	To balance,		28,154	00	Jan.	1
				1	28,054	00	
				1	100	00	
					28,154	00	
					28,154	00	
				By balance,			
(2)	Dr.	Cash Account.				Cr.	
1846.			1846.				
Jan.	1	To John Smith,	1	100	00	Jan.	1
				2	1	00	
				1	50		
				1	50		
				1	98	00	
					100	00	
		To balance,		98	00		
(3)	Dr.	Land Account.				Cr.	
1846.			1846.				
Jan.	1	To John Smith,		22,500	00		
(4)	Dr.	Horse Account.				Cr.	
1846.			1846.				
Jan.	1	To John Smith,	1	200	00	Jan.	1
		" Cash,	2	50		1	50
				200	50	1	50
				199	50	199	50
		To balance,		199	50		200
(5)	Dr.	Cow Account.				Cr.	
1846.			1846.				
Jan.	1	To John Smith,	1	120	00		
(6)	Dr.	Hog Account.				Cr.	
1846.			1846.				
Jan.	1	To John Smith,	1	24	00		
(7)	Dr.	Sheep Account.				Cr.	
1846.			1846.				
Jan.	1	To John Smith.	1	200	00		
(8)	Dr.	Poultry Account.				Cr.	
1846.			1846.				
Jan.	1	To John Smith,	1	25	00		
(9)	Dr.	Charges Account.				Cr.	
1846.			1846.				
Jan.	1	To John Smith,	1	285	00		
(10)	Dr.	Manure Account.				Cr.	
1846.			1846.				
Jan.	1	To John Smith,	1	100	00	Jan.	1
		" Sundries,	1	5	75	By balance,	
				105	75		105
				105	75		105
		To balance,		105	75		75
(11)	Dr.	Grain Account.				Cr.	
1846.			1846.				
Jan.	1	To John Smith,	1	2100	00		
(12)	Dr.	Hay Account.				Cr.	
1846.			1846.				
Jan.	1	To John Smith,	1	1000	00		

(13) Dr.			Tobacco Account.					Cr.		
1846.	Jan. 1		To John Smith,		1	1500	00			
00										
(14) Dr.			Wood Account.					Cr.		
							1846.	Jan. 1	By John Brown,	1 3
00										
(15) Dr.			Labor Account.					Cr.		
1846.	Jan. 1		To Cash,		2	50	1846.	Jan. 1	By John Brown,	1 50
00			" balance, †			50			" Manure account,	1 00
50						1 00				
50										
00									By balance,	† 1 00
00										
(16) Dr.			John Brown.					Cr.		
1846.	Jan. 1		To Sundries,		1	4 00	1846.	Jan. 1	By Manure,	1 00
			" Cash,		2	1 00				
						5 00				

* Should be 25 cents.

† Should be 25 cts.

Each of these accounts is supposed to occupy a page, and is numbered accordingly.

They are struck, or balanced to show how their correctness is established by a *trial balance*.

NOTE.—Accounts are called, 1st.—individual. 2nd.—*particular*, and 3rd.—personal—1st. as they re-

present other persons—2nd. as they represent a portion of our substance, under a particular head; and 3rd. as they represent ourselves.

We will now take of the balance, to *try* whether we have kept them correctly—hence it is called a *trial balance*.

Dr.	Trial of Balances	—Ledger—	Jan. 1st. 1846.	Cr.
2	Cash acc't	98 00	1	John Smith 28,154 00
3	Land "	22,500 00	14	Wood acc't 300
4	Horse "	199 50	15	Labor " * 1 00
5	Cow "	120 00		
6	Hog "	24 00		
7	Sheep "	200 00		
8	Poultry "	25 00		
9	Charges "	285 00		
10	Manure "	105 75		
11	Grain "	2,100 00		
12	Hay "	1,000 00		
13	Tobacco "	1,500 00		
		28,157 25		28,158 00

*Less, deduct for amount of errors in labor acc't,

75

28,157 25

John Brown's account being balanced, is closed, and does not come in this trial, but, still there is a difference of 75 cents—this you would say is a mere trifl—not so; where there is an error of *one cent*, there may be a dozen of larger amounts—Let us then, try to detect it—look back first to Labor acc't—and from it to the day and cash books, and you will find it was incorrectly posted 25cts—besides the balance bro't down is 50cts too much, which taken off the balance of that acc't 75cts., we then find the books are

correct.—Labor acc't, must therefore be corrected, so as to show a balance of 25cts. to its Cr.

With this brief exposition of bookkeeping, containing all the principles involved, we proceed to recommend a fourth book; called a "Diary"—not necessarily connected with a set of farm books; but essential to convenience and distinctness in those minor accounts, which, when reduced to a system, are very simple; but when looked at as a confused mass, appear exceedingly complex—we mean—Labor, Manure, Horse and other petty, but proper accounts.

Head and Rule your DIARY thus, across two pages.

Diary of Weather, Work, Hands, &c., (name of place,) 1846.

DATE, or 1846.	Hours.	Temperature.	Weather.	Wind.	Barometer.	Hands.	Work.	REMARKS AND COMMENTS.
Thursday, Jan. 1	6 A.M.	50°	Cloudy	W.		Robert Hamlet	Hauling Chopp'd wood	1 load, 1 cord wood in to town.
	12 M.	35°	Clear	NW		John	Asking	1 " 50 bushels ashes out of town.
	6 P.M.	32°	"	"		Wm.	Wheat	2 horse cart, all day.
	9 "	28°	"	"		James	Cows and	Finis-hed asking 50 acres wheat—set in
						Henry	Hogs, &c.	timothy—at 10 bushels fresh ashes to acre—(wheat 3½, Timothy 7½,) Wheat ashed last month, looks well.
								Thomas went away—John came at \$10 per month, and found.
								Commenced corning four Shoats, giving 1 bushel of corn per day—present live weight of all 400 lbs.

It may be noticed we have already made use of the first, second and third item, under head of Remarks; by entering them up, in the day book, so as to adjust John Brown's and manure account.

Once a week, or month even, is frequent enough to transfer them from the diary; and fifteen minutes, out of each twenty four hours, at evening, is ample time for making them thus particularly,—and upon the clearness and correctness of these little items, like the sum total of life, depends the proper adjustment of the whole system.

Having already exceeded our ordinary limits, and

encroached too far upon the very valuable pages of the Farmer; we will now close for the present, with the promise, that should nothing meantime prevent, we will explain more fully, the reasons why certain items should appear in certain accounts; and with the request to our patient reader, that if any thing, however trifling, apparently, in itself, appears obscure or complicated, he will ask for information, during the current month, to the care of the publisher of the American Farmer, directed to

CINCINNATI.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

DEAR SIR:—The politeness of my friend R. E. C. Downes, furnished me, (a few days since) with a copy of the American Farmer, with which I am pleased, as you are assured by my subscription. A perusal of that number has more than amply renumerated me for the small sum it cost per annum. Like my friend R. E. C. D., I am but a tyro in the agricultural profession, and must depend upon the experience of others, until I become myself experienced, and believe there is no better or cheaper mode of obtaining it than by the subscription to works professedly upon agriculture.

The farm I occupy, containing 300 acres, has 40 or 50 of low marshy alluvial bottom, situated due south of the dwelling. The location, from time immemorial has been considered a very unhealthy one, and the miasma arising from this bottom is doubtless the most prolific source of the sickness.

When I came in possession of it, (6 months since) this meadow land was overgrown with eupatorium, briars, elders and other varieties of weeds and bushes, so as to be of but little value to the possessor. A portion of it (1) had been previously ditched by my predecessor and sown with timothy, but the ditches were filled up and the timothy supplanted by the above mentioned weeds and bushes. Such parts of it as were sufficiently firm to support a yoke of oxen without miring, were ploughed in July, and sown with buckwheat, more with a view of keeping down the weeds than of obtaining a crop for harvesting. It grew to a very great height, where it was not

drowned, some stalks were upwards of six feet high and half an inch in diameter. It did not, however, fill well, and the stubble fell before it ripened; when the hogs were turned upon it. I am ploughing such parts of it as are dry enough, with a view of seeding it in the spring with oats and timothy, after having sown 20 or 30 bushels of ashes per acre. I am still continuing the ditches and shall do so as long as the weather is favorable. They are mostly filled with cedar bushes and covered with rye straw and leveled with the surrounding surface. This bottom was doubtless the site of salt water, as it is underlaid with fossil remains of marine animals at depths varying from 2 to 8 feet from the surface. Ducatel in his tour through the Eastern Shore analysed this marl and found the better portions of it to contain 70 per cent. of lime. It is needless to say that I am getting as much of it out on the high lands as my force and means will permit. It contains the shells of 7 or 8 different varieties of marine animals, which with care can be obtained whole, occasionally one is found petrified. The surface of this low land varying from 2 to 4 feet deep, is vegetable mould, or has that appearance.

A person can shake it for 3 or 4 rods in some places; it shovels more like well rotted stable manure than like ordinary soil. I am hauling the ditch banks into my farm, and design to haul it also upon the high lands unmixed with other manure. Any suggestions you may be pleased to offer as to its future management will be thankfully received.

ÆSOPUS.

Nov. 22nd, 1845.

Horticultural Department.

FOR JANUARY.

Very little can be done in the garden this month, unless the weather be remarkably mild—Where early vegetables are wanted, hot-beds should be put into operation, early in the month.

TREES, SEEDS, &c.—The winter is a favourable season for those who wish to possess themselves of improved varieties, to look up and purchase them, for spring. By reading and conversation with enlightened and enterprising farmers, one may frequently acquire valuable information in reference to such matters, and which, if acted upon will be productive of highly beneficial effects. As the spring advances, less time and fewer opportunities will be afforded for the business, and less interest experienced as to the result.

SETTING OUT A VINEYARD.

Mr. Jas. Locke, florist, of Sing Sing, N. Y. gives the following as his method of setting out the vine, and pruning it—We copy from the N. Y. Farmer and Mechanic, in which we find a communication from another florist in New Jersey, approving of the plan—**Mr. Locke**, says:

If I was going to set out a vineyard, I should set a row of posts six feet apart, then another row of posts parallel to them, thirty feet distant from the posts. I would then plant a vine at each post, conduct a number 12 wire from the top of one post to the other. I then could use the intermediate ground for any short crop of garden vegetables I wished. They would all do well; and by training a single vine up the post and across the wire, I would get full as many grapes, if not more, than when the whole arbor was occupied; and the wind has no effect upon it, the wire being so flexible that they do not suffer as much as those that are trained in arbors. The posts ought to be high enough to drive under with a horse.

My time of trimming is late in the spring; at least I never commence trimming until the vine will bleed freely, which a great many people consider a great detriment; but when I cut out old wood, I always cut it three or four feet longer than I intended it shall be, so that when the first cut becomes gummed over, I cut away some more, to give the sap free passage. I will venture to say my vines are the largest in the State of New York, for their age. The great difficulty with me is, that they are so loaded with fruit that I am obliged to pick off large quantities when green. In consequence of the superior flavor of my grapes, owing I think to the surface of the ground being covered and tilled, I have no trouble in selling them in advance, as I have now done, for the last two years—Messrs. Hope, corner of Chamber street and West Broadway, have engaged them.

In trimming, I suffer no old wood to remain that I can possibly remove, and trim the ones which I wish for bearers, entirely smooth. I also make a second trimming in the course of the season, by removing all the middle growth. Yours, &c.

JAMES LOCKE, Florist.

For the American Farmer.

THE RHUBARB OR PYE PLANT.

Brinkleyville, Halifax county, N. C.

Mr. Editor:—The above named plant merits more regard I venture to assert than it receives in our country. A very few, say half a dozen, well planted and tended in rich ground, will supply a family with most palatable and healthful tarts or pies from early in the spring till ripe apples come—They were particularly acceptable in this season's dearth of fruit—Some 20 years since in western New York, near Auburn, dining at the table of Major Van Vaulkenburg, a Revolutionary soldier, I was asked how I liked my *apple pie* as a desert—On replying it was very fine, I was told it was not of the apple, but a *plant* that grew in their garden. And I was shown a few sets of the Rhubarb, from the stems of which they had pies every day for dinner. I have carried out my resolution, then formed, of having, when getting a household, these plants, and the excellent tarts therefrom, ever since locating in the south with a family. Near the city of London, I learn, they cultivate whole fields of Rhubarb, and carry in wagon-loads for market. But in America it is not so generally and extensively cultivated as in Europe. It is not so easily raised from the seed as some plants, being subject to destruction the first season, by the sun's heat. I find newly cleared land brings the plants forward for transplanting sooner than old land—some thousands I cultivated for sale on a piece of cleared ground, are twice as large as those heretofore I had grown a season on old soil.

Several families in this region, at my recommendation have tried this plant and its tarts, and express themselves highly gratified with the result.

In truth, yours, &c. SIDNEY WELLER.

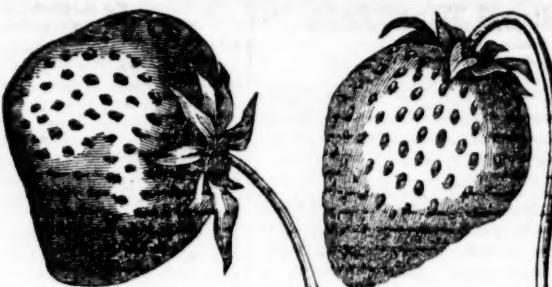
HOW TO OBTAIN GRAPE VINES.

In reply to a correspondent who desired to know "the best time and mode of grafting, or getting a start of grape-vines," the editor of the Indiana Farmer and Gardener says:

Grafting is only practiced on the vine for special reasons, and we have never had occasion to try it. We shall speak of a better mode of obtaining vines.

The best method of "getting a start" of grape vines is, by the employment of cuttings. These may be planted immediately after the spring pruning of established vines. But cuttings of native grapes are as well planted in the fall. The granulation, from which the roots spring, will form during the winter and the cuttings, starting early in the spring, will make good growth the first year. Cuttings are the best, because they can be procured easily, abundantly and cheaply; they will bear carriage to any distance, are exceedingly tenacious of life, and they make thriflter plants. Cuttings may be set, either where they are to remain, (in which case several should be set, to allow for failures, and only the strongest finally retained,) or they may be set in nursery rows eight inches apart. Cuttings should be inserted about eight inches deep, and have two eyes or buds above the surface. The two buds are merely precautionary; that if one fails the other may sprout; one only, and that the strongest, should finally be permitted to grow.

An old and skilful cultivator of the vine says that *cuttings are the best of all modes* of securing a supply of vines. "For my part, I am for scions without roots, after many experiments. All the advantage the one with roots has over the other is, that they are more sure to live; but they will not in general make as thriflter plants."



No. 40, C.

No. 62, B.

TWO NEW VARIETIES OF STRAWBERRIES,

BY D. W. BRINKLE, M. D.

From the Farmer's Cabinet.

MR. EDITOR:—

THE PRESIDENT.

The President—No. 40, C. of my collection—was produced by artificially crossing, in the spring of 1843, Hovey's Seedling with the Elton. As soon as the berry was ripe, which was on the 23d of June, the seed was planted. The plant fruited for the first time in June, 1845. Blossom large, with perfect anthers. Leaf small, leaf stem hairy. Fruit very large, highly glazed, irregular in shape, of a dark rich crimson colour, with seed of a lighter shade—flavour fine.

CLARA VICTORIA.

The Clara Victoria,—No. 62, B. of my collection—so called after one of my little daughters, is the result of a cross between the Methven Castle and the Elton, the latter being the male parent. This cross was also made in the spring of 1843, and the seed was planted on the 28th June of the same year. It fruited for the first time in June, 1845. Blossom large, with perfect anthers. Leaf of medium size, somewhat cupped, and of a dark colour. Fruit very large, beautifully symmetrical in form, broad at the base, and gradually tapering to a point; of a crimson colour and fine flavour.

These two plants with many more of my new varieties, have been sent to the following nurserymen: Mr. Hancock, of Burlington; Mr. Buist, of this city; Mr. Kenrick, of Boston; and Mr. Prince, of Flushing.

Mr. Edwin Middleton, near Darby, has upwards of fifty of my new kinds in cultivation, and will fully test their merits. Next summer I will probably give you a full and interesting report on the subject of my recent experiments.

Yours, &c.

W. D. BRINKLE.

Philadelphia, Oct. 28th 1843.

Sore Throat.—We have known several instances in which this distressing complaint, even in its worst stages, has been immediately alleviated, and speedily cured by the following remedy:—Mix a pennyworth of powdered camphor with a wine-glass full of brandy, pour a small quantity on a lump of sugar, and allow it to dissolve in the mouth every hour. The third or fourth time generally enables the patient to swallow with ease.—*Ex. paper.*

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

FLORACULTURE.

We have the pleasure of announcing to our patrons, that Mr. Samuel Feast, Florist of this city, whose skill and taste is probably unsurpassed in this country, has kindly consented to furnish us with a memorandum of the duties devolving in the Flower department during each month of the year—Our lady friends in particular, we are satisfied, will be gratified with this arrangement, as they can have no more reliable source for directions in the management of their plants, than that which will be furnished through our columns by Mr. Feast.

WORK FOR JANUARY.

PREPARED FOR THE *American Farmer* BY SAM'L. FEAST, Florist.

Bulbous roots if not planted, should be during the first mild weather, and the beds protected from frost by means of litter, &c.

Plants in frames will need attention—keep from frost by a protection of mats, or shutters, and give plenty of air, on every fine day.

Greenhouse plants, require but little attention, excepting occasionally a little water and keeping clean, by fumigation to kill insects, picking off decayed leaves, &c. Give plenty of air every fine day.

Camellias will require to be freely watered and occasionally syringed, taking care not to injure the already expanded flowers.

Cactuses should be kept rather dry.

Chinese primroses should have moderate supplies of water.

Azaleas will commence growing, when they should receive liberal supplies of water.

Geraniums will be growing now, and such as need it, should be repotted.

Hyacinths planted in November should be removed to the parlor or green-house.

WIVES AND SISTERS.

A deal of mischief and misery is not unfrequently occasioned in families by the interference of relatives between man and wife, and in many instances the unhappiness of a married couple's existence is owing to the malignity or mistaken kindness of her friends.

A woman should look upon her husband as her only friend, and in all cases wherein he differs with any branch of her family, she should assume it as a fact that he is in the right, and govern herself accordingly. Whenever any one whispers a tale to her derogatory to her husband, she should look upon the talebearer as the enemy of their happiness in the first place, and in the second place, as a despicable and impertinent person, as all tale-bearers are. In short, as Miss Pardoe says in the subjoined extract, when a woman is married, she should give up her heart, feelings, fancies and opinions to her husband, and never allow a sister's influence to be superior to his. For the joy, tranquility and comfort of her existence is dependent upon her husband; and if they cannot live in amity together, they will look in vain for comfort in any of the relations of life.

"There is a degree of intimacy and communion of thought and feeling existing between sisters that cannot remain unbroken after marriage. Pure and true as is the tie of sisterhood, it is not right that it should continue in all its strictness and exclusiveness when marriage has divided them; for the husband has still stronger claims upon his wife, and it is impossible this can exist uninjured, if the tie of sisterhood is retained in all its former power."

HOUSEWIFERY.

OYSTER FRITTERS.—Strain some of their own liquor, and make a thin batter with two eggs, and some salt and flour, stir the oysters in, make some butter and lard hot, in a thick bottomed frying-pan and pour in the fritters; let it fry a nice brown on one side, then carefully turn it whole, and brown the other.

Or put it in the pan with a large spoon, allowing an oyster for each spoonful of batter; the oysters for these last must be large, the former may be small.

FRICASSEED OYSTERS.—Wash them in their own liquor, strain some of it to them, add a good bit of butter, with a tablespoonful of flour worked into it, pepper to taste, put them in a covered stew-pan, and when nearly done, stir in the beaten yolk of an egg; let it simmer for a few minutes and serve.

OYSTER PIE.—Butter a deep dish, line the sides and bottom, with a rich puff paste; dredge a little flour over, pour in the oysters, washed in their own liquor, then strain over liquor enough to nearly fill the dish, work some butter and flour together, and put it in pieces the size of a walnut, about an inch apart, over the whole surface, and pepper and a little salt, and cover with a rich crust, cut a slit in the top, and ornament it with leaves cut of paste, or a paste tulip—bake in a hot oven; the paste must be rather thick, else the oysters will be cooked too much before the crust is done.

FRIED OYSTERS.—Have large fine oysters, dip each one singly in flour, have some butter and lard hot, in a thick-bottomed frying-pan; lay the oysters in, turn each as soon as it is browned; when both sides are done, take them up, and serve. Grated horse-radish wet with vinegar, or pickles, should be served with them.

BEST PICKLED OYSTERS.—Take fine large oysters, put them over the fire with their own liquor, add to them a bit of butter, and let them simmer until they are plump, and white; when they are so, take them up with a skimmer, have a large napkin folded,

lay the oysters, each spread nicely out, on it; then take of the oyster liquor and vinegar equal parts—enough to cover the oysters, have a large stone pot or tureen, put in a layer of oysters, lay over it some whole pepper, allspice and cloves, and some ground mace, then add another layer of oysters, then more spice, and then a layer of oysters and spice, until all are done; then pour over the oyster liquor and vinegar, let them stand one night, and they are done—the vinegar and liquor must be warm. Oysters prepared in this way, are delicious.

CHRISTMAS PLUM PUDDING.—Chop half a pound of beef suet very fine, stone and chop one pound of raisins; wash, pick clean from grit, and dry, a pound of currants; soak half of a sixpenny loaf of bread in a pint of milk; when it has taken up all the milk, add to it raisins, currants, chopped suet, and two eggs beaten, a tablespoonful of sugar, one wineglass of brandy, one nutmeg grated, and any other spice that may be liked. Boil four hours. For sauce, beat a quarter of a pound of butter to a cream, then stir into it half a pound of powdered loaf sugar. Or, melt butter and sugar, and if liked, add more brandy.

CONNECTICUT CHEESE DAIRIES.

In our late excursion through Connecticut, we were glad to find satisfactory evidence that the character of that state for the manufacture of good cheese, is still maintained. The two principal cheese neighborhoods which we visited were Goshen and Winchester. The first of these towns became famous for its cheese at an earlier period than any other section of the country, but though the place still holds a prominent rank in this respect, we are inclined to think, from what we saw and heard that for general reputation, "the sceptre has departed from" Goshen, and is now held by Winchester.

From Mr. A. Miles, of Goshen, a large dealer in cheese we obtained some facts in regard to the quantity annually made there. The average quantity exported from the town, is about 500,000 pounds. The quantity of butter sold, is small, being only about 40,000 pounds per year. Cheese has fallen much in price within a few years, owing to the increased quantity thrown into market. It sells this season, while new, at five cents per pound—at home, or within the town. The average quantity made per cow is not known, but may be estimated at 300 to 350 lbs. Some good dairies make much more. Mr. Lawton sold last year an average of 403 lbs. per cow, and with what he kept for his own use, probably made 425 lbs. per cow.

Mr. Lewis M. Norton, of Goshen, was the first manufacturer of what is called *Pine-apple* cheese, in America. He commenced making this article in 1808. He had at that time no knowledge of the mode in which it received its peculiar form and qualities. He saw some which come from England, and set himself to work to imitate it. His first trial succeeded so well that he was encouraged to persevere, and he has so perfected the whole process, from the "running up" of the curd, to the sale of the cheese, as to entirely distance all competition.

Mr. Norton is this year using the curd from ninety cows, for making pine-apple cheese. The principal portion of this curd is bought of his neighbors, for which he pays them the same price per pound that common new milk cheese brings, which is five cents this season; so that those who sell him their curd, save all the labor of pressing and curing their

cheese, besides gaining considerable weight of the curd.

The curd is kept for twenty-four hours before it is made into cheese. The advantage of this, is supposed by Mr. Norton to be, that a degree of fermentation takes place, which being checked at a critical time, by the cutting of the curd, preparatory to its being formed into cheese, is not renewed after it comes from the press; thus preventing the defect of the cheese being hooven or blown.

The curd is rapidly cut into pieces of not more than a fourth of an inch square, with a machine invented by Albert Loomis, Torringford, Ct., which Mr. N. prefers to any curd-cutter he has seen. After being cut, the curd is put in a cheese cloth, placed in warm water, and the temperature gradually raised by pouring in water that is still warmer, till it reaches 105 degrees, by the thermometer. This does not scald the curd, which according to the practice of the best cheese-makers in England and in this country, is, we think, disconcerted. The curd is next cooled, by adding cold water, to the temperature of 88 degrees, when the whole of the water is drawn from the vat, and the curd weighed, and salted with the finest kind of table salt—four ounces of salt to ten pounds of curd—and after being well stirred is put in the press, where it remains twenty-four hours, or a longer time, as is convenient, as it takes no hurt by remaining forty-eight hours. The curd is weighed immediately over the tub, being drawn up by a pully, and when this is done, is again lowered into the tub, where it is salted.

The cheeses are pressed in moulds, made of sound blocks of oak timber, about twenty inches long and ten inches square. They are sawed lengthwise through the middle, and each half is carved or worked out so as to give the general shape of a pine-apple—one half in each part. From the cavity to the upper end of the block, a groove is cut in each part, which, when the parts are placed together, makes a round channel of about two and a half inches in diameter, for passing the curd into the mould. When the two parts of the block are put together in such a manner that the cavities match each other, and are strongly keyed into a frame, they form the mould for pressing the curd. The pressure is applied by means of a screw, operating on an upright, round piece of wood, which fits the channel in the block, and as it is forced down compresses the curd in the mould. The presses are very compact and strong, and appear to answer the purpose well. He had sixty eight of them, and makes twenty eight cheeses per day, weighing when dried 5 lbs. each. When the cheeses are taken from the press, they are trimmed, and then placed in nets and hung in water of the temperature of 130 degrees. This is to soften the outside, that it may receive the desired impression from the net, which is done by taking them from the water, while enveloped in the nets, placing them in a frame and straining the nets tightly over them by means of screws. This indents the threads of the net into the cheese in such a manner as to give them the external appearance of the fruit from which they are named. After this operation the cheeses are hung up in the nets from three to five weeks, for the outside to harden, and are then set on shelves having suitable hollows or concavities for the cheeses to rest on. In the centre of each concavity, a hole two inches in diameter is cut through the shelf, the more freely to admit air to the cheese, and allow any liquid that may come from it, to run off. The nets used for the cheese are made of three threaded flax-twine, and

the manufacture of them costs, exclusive of the material, about 5 cents each. They will last three or four years.

Mr. Norton sells his cheese in New-York, Baltimore and other southern cities. It usually nets him about ten cents per pound, after deducting commissions. How much greater are the actual profits derived from this kind of cheese than are obtained from other kinds, we cannot tell. Mr. Norton has evidently incurred great expense in his fixtures, and in the time and study he has spent in bringing the manufacture of the article to such complete perfection, and this ought, in justice, to secure him some corresponding advantages. He, however, makes no secret of any discoveries or improvements which his protracted and indefatigable labors have effected; but with a highly commendable liberality, freely permits the most minute examination of his systematic operations.—*Alb. Cult.*

At the late meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Agricultural Society for the Eastern Shore, which was held at Myrtle Grove, the residence of William Goldsborough, Esq., on Thursday, the 30th ultimo—a member announced to the Board the death of two of their late members, Robert Banning and Samuel T. Kennard, Esqrs.

The Secretary read a communication which he had received from the Farmers Inspecting Association, and from which the following is extracted.

Sir:—At a meeting of the “Farmers Inspecting Association” held on the 25th ult. the President announced in a most pathetic and touching manner, the deaths of Mr. Robert Banning and Mr. S. T. Kennard, two of the late members of the Maryland Agricultural Society for the Eastern Shore; Whereupon it was—

Resolved, unanimously, that this Association learn with deep sorrow the distressing occurrence which has just been announced; and that the Secretary be required to communicate to the Trustees of the M. A. S. for E. S. our sympathy and condolence.

Signed, JOHN W. MARTIN, Sect.

M. T. Goldsborough, Sect. M. A. S. for the E. S. Whereupon the following Preamble and Resolutions were offered and unanimously adopted.

Whereas since the last meeting of this Board it has pleased the Almighty to take from us two of our original members—both suddenly stricken with paralysis, and dying under the same roof, under circumstances so deeply afflicting to their respective families—and appalling to the feelings of those who were performing the last offices of friendship; Therefore

Resolved, That the remaining members of the Board, now sadly thinned by an event, unparalleled in the annals of social intercourse—and deeply sensible of their own great loss—feel painfully capable of appreciating the calamity which has befallen the families of their deceased associates, Robert Banning and Samuel T. Kennard, Esqrs., and tender to them the expression of their sincere condolence and commiseration for so great a bereavement.

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to communicate to the Farmers Inspecting Association, or just appreciation of their course in conveying to them so handsome a manner, their sympathy for melancholy bereavement.

Resolved, That the Secretary address a copy of these resolutions to the families of our deceased friends, Robert Banning and Samuel T. Kennard Esqrs.

M. TILGHMAN GOLDSBOROUGH, Sec't.

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Baltimore Market, December 30.

*Coffee, Rio, 7½; Cotton, Up. 8a½c.; Mobile 8a½—Cattle, 500 head offered on Monday, of which 227 re-
main over, and 273 sold at \$1.50a½ 25 per 100 lbs. on
the hoof, equal to 3a½ 75 net., average of sales \$2—
Hogs, live, supply fair, with a good demand, we
quote \$6 to packers, and smaller parcels at 6½a½ 25, killed hogs dull at \$5; a small advance is obtained for
small lots—Pork, old mess, 13.50a 13.75; prime, \$11;
new mess \$14.25a 14.50; prime \$12a 12.50—Beef, mess,
10a 10.50; No. 1, 8.50a 8.75, prime 6.25a 6.50—Bacon,
but limited sales; Western Shoulders 6½c.; Sides 7½a 7½; Hams 8a 8½; new Balto. cured Shoulders 7½; sides 7½; hams 9—Lard, western and city, in kegs, 8½a 8½; in bbls. 7½a 8½—Mackerel, No. 2, \$8; No 3, 4.62 a 4.75—Herrings, small sales at \$3.50—Feathers, 28a 33c. for prime, and 20a 25 for inferior—Cloverseed,
sales of fair to good lots at 6.25a 6.50, and limited
sales of very prime at 6.75 per bushel—Flax Seed, is
held at \$1.25a 1.30—Hemp, Ky. dew rotted 4a 4½ and
water rotted 6a 7 with a light stock of the latter—
Sugar, market dull, N. Orleans 7a 7.25, new crop—
Wool, there is a fair inquiry, and the stock in market
is much reduced—Whiskey, the price has declined
the last week; sales of bbls. 27c.; of bbls. 28—the
wagon price of bbls. is 24c. exclusive of the barrels—
Flour, Howard-st. sales at \$5.25; the receipt price
from cars, \$5.12. City mills, holders are very firm at
\$5.25—Corn, white 68a 69c.; yellow 71a 72c. Pa. corn,
yellow 70c.—Oats 43a 44—Rye, sales of Md. at 75—
Wheat, good to prime reds 103a 108; white, good
quality, 110a 112—The receipts of grain are light—
Tobacco, has been dull during the month past, and as
there can be but little brought by water at the present
season, shippers are not disposed to operate to
any extent—The sales of Md. are confined to ground
leaf, which sells at 3a 8b, principally at \$3.50a 6.50,
as fast as received; inferior and common Md. 2a 3c;
middling to good \$3a 5.50; good 6a 7; and fine 8a 12;
Ohio is dull, the receipts light, and mostly of com-
mon quality, which is not in demand—we quote com-
mon to middling at \$3a 4.50; good 5a 6; prime, red
and wapperry 6.50a 10; fine yellow 10a 12; and extra
wapperry 11a 13—The inspections for the last four
weeks comprise, Maryland, 966 bbls.; Ohio 313;
Kentucky 17; Missouri 30; Virginia 1—Total for
weeks, 1327 bbls.*

"Spade labour, the perfection of good husbandry."

PULVERIZA-
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TION.

EZRA WHITMAN, No. 8 *Eastoe street*, and No. 55 *Light Street*, has been appointed by the patentees, *Prouty & Mears*, of Boston, sole Agent in Baltimore and parts adjacent for the sale of the *Boston Centre-draught Plough*, with new gearing, &c. By this admirable implement, confessedly "the best plough known in this country for beauty of work and pulverizing the soil," the labors of man and team are lessened one-half, while the power and steadiness of draught obtained are so great, that any depth or width of furrow is broken up, pulverized, and carried completely over, so as to bury any quantity of weeds, herbage, or long dung, with perfect ease and facility, and with the precision of the spade.

Prices, from \$6 to 13 dollars, with extra point and share. No extra charge for the new gearing. Castings of every size and variety kept constantly on hand. Sep-11

R ASPBERRIES, APRICOTS, PLUMS, AND GRAPE VINES, of different varieties, of superior kinds. The subscriber is prepared to furnish the above fruits, from the most experienced gardeners and orchardists, at the lowest rates for the several kinds. Enquire of **SAMUEL SANDS**, Dec. 1 Office of the American Farmer.

Book & Job Printing executed at this Office.

**S. & T. H. HUNT'S BALTIMORE
MANUFACTORY, WHOLESALE & RETAIL,
NO. 167 BALTIMORE STREET, BETWEEN CALVERT AND
LIGHT STREETS, nearly opposite the Museum,**
Where Travellers and Merchants can obtain for their own use,
or to Sell again, the most approved Iron Frame and Iron bound
Divided TRAVELLING TRUNKS, made in all their various
styles for convenience, durability, &c. Constantly on hand, a
general assortment of Patent Improved Spring, Ladies Hunting
and other Saddles, in all their variety. Also, Carriage, Buggy,
and other Harness of every description, together with every
article in their line of business. At Nov. 1

PREMIUM PLOW!

We call the attention of Farmers to our "MARYLAND
SELF-SHARPENING PLOW," which is now in general
use and highly esteemed, either for the roughest or clean land.
At the late Prince George's Agricultural Fair it received the
highest premium notwithstanding the array of the best Boston,
New York and Maryland plow vs against which it had to contend.
R. SINCLAIR, JR. & CO., MANUFACTURERS,
62 Light Street.

LIME—LIME.—The subscriber is prepared to furnish
Lime from his depot at the City Block, Baltimore, ALUM
STONE LIME of the purest description, deliverable at any
point on the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries, at such prices
cannot fail to please.

He is also prepared to furnish superior building Lime at 25c.
per bushel, in hds., or at \$1 per bbl. E. J. COOPER,
July, City Block, Baltimore.

The "simon pure," and invincible WILEY PLOW still in
the field—A. G. MOTT, at No. 38 *ENSOR STREET*, near
the *Bal-Alt Market*—Manufacturer and Vendor of Implements
of Husbandry, viz. *Plows, Harrowes, Cultivators, Grain-
Cradles, Wheat-Fans, Corn-Shellers, Straw-Cutters, Endless
chain Horse Powers, Threshing Machines, &c. &c.*—through
this medium, would apprise the agricultural community of the
fact, that he is the only manufacturer in the "Moumental city"
of the GENUINE WILEY PLOW (right and left hand)
composed of the real "simon pure" and justly celebrated New
York composition, chilled castings, the points of which, are
warranted to stand the most rugged soil equal to steel, at a
cost of about two cents per acre, for blacksmith's bill.—If you
are for bargains, call or send your orders, for he guarantees his
Implements good as the best, and cheap as the cheapest, for
Cash, and delivered in any part of the city free of charge—
Plow castings by the piece or ton; old Implements repaired on
the most reasonable terms. Orders addressed to A. G. MOTT,
Baltimore, will receive prompt attention. dec. 1

NORTH DEVON CATTLE.—The subscriber offers for
sale a few BULLS, HEIFERS and CALVES, of pure
NORTH DEVON blood, from 6 to 18 months old. They have
been bred with great care from the best stock in the country,
are handsome animals, of good size, and in fine condition.
Prices from \$30 to \$50. Address or apply to

JOHN P. E. STANLEY,
46 S. Calvert st. Baltimore, Md.

**A GRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS—LABOR SAVING
MACHINERY.**—*GEORGE P. J. GE*, Machinist & Manufacturer, Baltimore st. West of Schrader st. Baltimore, is now prepared to supply Agriculturists and all others in want of Agricultural and Labor-saving MACHINERY, with any thing in his line. He can furnish Portable Saw Mills to go by steam, horse or water power; Lumber Wheels; Horse Powers of various sizes, ranging in price from \$85 to \$200, and each simple, strong and powerful. His Horse Power & Threshing Machine, he is prepared to supply at the low price of \$125 complete; the Threshing Machines without the horse power, according to size, at \$30, 40, 65 and \$75; Improved Seed and Corn Planters; Portable Tobacco Press; Portable Grist Mills complete, \$125.

JAMES MURRAY'S CORN & COB CRUSHERS.—
These already celebrated MACHINES have obtained the pre-
mium by a fair trial against other Crushers exhibited at the fair
held at Govanstown, Balt. co. Md. in Oct. 1842, and the increased
demand enables the patentee to give further inducements to
purchasers by fitting an extra pair of grinders to each machine
without extra charge. Prices \$25, 30, 35, 40, 45.

Also—Small MILLS, which received a certificate of merit, for \$15—I have also superior CUTTING BOXES, such as will bear inspection by either farmer or mechanicks. Also, Horse Powers, Mills, Corn Shellers, Mill and Carry-log Screws, small Steam Engines, Turning Lathes, &c. Also, a second hand Steam Engine, 16 horse power, and the works for 2 Saw Mills.

Any kind of Machine, Model or Mill-work built to order, and all mills planned and erected by me, warranted to operate well.
(Orders can be left with J. F. Cahan, Washington, D. C. & S. S. Sands, Farmer Office; or the subscriber.

Patent Rights for the Corn and Cob Crusher for sale.
Jy. JAS. MURRAY, Millwright, York near Light st. Balt.

PROF. DUCATEL, late Geologist of this State, author of "A Treatise on Lime Burning," of an "Essay on the use of Oyster Shell Lime upon the soils of Maryland," and other Agricultural Tracts, offers his professional services to the Farmers of Maryland, by the Analysis and examination of soils and mineral manures. He will advise in writing, or otherwise, as to the best mode of proceeding in the improvement of soils, according to their chemical and physical characters,—he will also analyze and pronounce upon the value of limestone, ore, and minerals of all kinds, for industrial or economical purposes; or in other words, will give his opinion in writing, upon all subjects connected with the application of Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology, to Agriculture or the arts. Prof. D. not having been for a long time a salaried officer of the State—the office of the State Geologist being abolished—he will expect a remuneration for the services it may be in his power to render, proportionate to their value.

(G)—His residence is 136 Fayette street, where he may be addressed or called upon, at any time of the day, but more certainly between the hours of 12 to 2 P. M.

Jan. 1

PLOUGHS, CULTIVATORS, HARROWS, &c.

IN store ready made, a large stock of DAVIS and Davis Improved Plows. Also the Cleeny Patent self-sharpening Plows, Chenoweth do., King's Connecticut Improved, and various other kinds. Likewise 70 Corn and Tobacco Cultivators with wrought hoes well steel'd. Threshing Machines and Horse Powers, together with a great variety of other Farming Implements, all of which are made in the best manner and of the best materials, and which he will sell for cash at first cost. Also on hand a large stock of well assorted Plow Castings, at wholesale, on terms as above—and he is prepared to furnish castings of any kind, light or heavy, on reasonable terms.

J. S. EASTMAN,

Jan. 1 180, Pratt street, between Charles & Hanover.

STRAW CUTTERS.

THE subscriber has on hand 20 11 inch—15 13 inch—6 15 inch, and 2 20 inch, of his Patent Cylindrical Straw Cutters, made in the very best manner, and equal to any machines for the same purpose, in this or any other country, and are adapted to every kind of long forage, straight or tangled, coarse or fine, which he offers for cash at about first cost of making. These Machines will be found invaluable to all such persons who are short of forage for their stock, as there is, beyond doubt, a saving of at least one-third by cutting it fine for feeding.

J. S. EASTMAN,

180 Pratt street.

EZR A WHITMAN'S AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE,
No. 55 LIGHT STREET, BALTIMORE.

The proprietor of this establishment is the sole agent in the city of Baltimore, for the sale of the following new and valuable improvements, viz:—Whitman's improved Railway Horsepower and Threshing Machine—Front & M. M. M. M. Boston Centre Draught PLOUGH, and Subsoil do.—Wm. Hovey's PREMIUM STRAW CUTTER—J. T. Grant's Premium FANNING MILL—W. & B. Douglass' premium PUMPS—Jacob Peoyer's MILL for Cutting and Grinding Corn Fodder—Aaron Baker's new patented GATE—And a general assortment of the latest and most approved AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS constantly on hand, and all kinds of REPAIRING DONE at short notice.

Whitman's new Improved Railway Horsepower, with wrought Iron railway and fastenings. Cash Price, Two Horsepower \$100, One Horse do., \$75. More than 1000 of these celebrated Horsepowers are now in use in the United States for threshing grain and driving various kinds of machinery. It is a fact, as many of our best Farmers will testify, that my One Horsepower will thresh as fast as many of the four Horse machines, also that they are easier for the Horse, and being made of wrought Iron they are much more durable.

Jan. 1.

EZR A WHITMAN, JR.

BOMMER'S METHOD.—The public is respectfully referred to the following among other testimonials which will be placed before them, in favor of this method of making manure:

Through the request of Mr. John Gouliart to furnish him a certificate of the efficiency and utility of making manure by the Bommer Method, I will state, that in 1843 Mr. Gouliart constructed a heap composed of cornstalks, corncobs, straw, &c. and finding the same at maturity of good quality, I put up another of the same material by myself, which latter I tested on eighteen thousand heaps of corn, and must acknowledge that it superseded my best Barn or stable Manure, not only in the fertility and moisture it contains, but through the great fermentation of its process, destroys every germ of noxious seed the material may contain, and left my field comparatively clear; and I therefore recommend it to the agricultural community not only as beneficial but desirable. ABNER LINTHICUM.

All Letters must be post paid, addressed to JOHN GOULIART, General Agent for the State of Maryland; Residence, Baltimore, Madison Street, 132.

Jan. 1

OSTRICH AND JAVA FOWLS, FOR SALE.

ONE pair Ostrich Fowls, two years old, at \$35—One or two pair pure White Guineas fowls, very rare and beautiful, at \$8—Several Black Java Cocks, from three to 5 months old, \$2.50—One or two pairs same, (per pair,) \$4—Several pairs of Montevidean Muscovy Ducks, very large and fine.

Apply (letters post paid), to S. SANDS,
Jan. 1 Publisher American Farmer.

PERUVIAN GUANO.—The subscriber offers for sale a portion of the Orpheus' cargo of Peruvian GUANO, just arrived at New York from the Chincha Islands, in parcels of 5 tons and upwards, at \$50 per ton of 2240 lbs.

Purchasers of smaller quantities will be supplied by DAVID C. HARRIS, No. 155, Baltimore street, at the following rates: 3 to 5 tons, \$82.50
1 to 3 tons, \$54.00
Under 1 ton 24 cents per lb.

SAM'L. K. GEORGE,

nov. Agent Peruvian Company, No. 4 German st. Baltimore.

ATTENTION FARMERS!—ROYER'S Improved Fodder Cutter—I would respectfully call the attention of Farmers and others, who have to feed Stock over winter, to my improved PATENT FODDER CUTTER, which is without exception the best article for CUTTING & GRINDING FODDER, cutting Straw, &c. which has ever been offered to the public. The machine will cut and grind 150 bushels (pressed measure) of fodder in one hour, which can be fed without any loss. Inasmuch as Hay will be an object of considerable value with almost every farmer, this season, no prudent farmer can consistently deprive himself of the advantages of one of these machines.

Any person who may wish to purchase a MACHINE can have one put up at any place he may desire within 30 or 40 miles of this place (Union-town,) free of any trouble or additional expence, and warranted to give entire satisfaction to the purchaser or no sale.

For the convenience of those at a distance who may wish to have a Machine, I will keep a supply at the following places, where they may be had upon the same terms that I furnish them at my shop:

Edward Stabler, Sandy Spring, Montgomery co. Md.
Calvin Page, Fredericktown, Frederick county, Md.
Whitman's Agricultural Warehouse, Baltimore city, Md.

The price is invariably \$30.

I would also dispose of Patent Rights for a few more Counties, and also some of the states. All orders addressed to the undersigned at Union-town, Carroll co. Md. will receive punctual attention.

JACOB ROYER.
Union Town, Md. Oct. 6, 1845.
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